

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PARIS: The director of Cuba's state tobacco company Tuesday challenged a leading European cigar merchant to a taste test to determine whether the quality of Cuban cigars has declined.

Francisco Padron, director of Cubanabaco, issued the challenge at a news conference to counter complaints made by tobacco merchant Zino Davidoff.

Davidoff's company, based in Switzerland, is traditionally the supplier of cigars for Europe's wealthy industrialists and bankers. It broke its contract with Cubanabaco last year, contending that the quality and consistency of Havana cigars had dropped.

Padron proposed a televised taste test in which cigar connoisseurs would judge the quality of Cubanabaco's La Havana Cigars.

"Zino Davidoff hasn't been to Cuba for 20 years and he knows nothing about Cuban cigars," said Padron, puffing on a La Havana during the news conference. (AP)

CHICAGO, Illinois: The deputy mayor of education says she is sending her oldest daughter to a suburban private academy because the quality of education in Chicago is poor.

Lourdes Montecagudo, who was appointed in May by Mayor Richard M. Daley said the girl is a freshman at North Shore Country Day School in Winnetka, where Montecagudo's former husband lives.

Even if the girl lived with her every day on Chicago's northwest side, Montecagudo said, she would not send her to Clemente high school, the school she would have to attend.

"I don't have to apologize for it," she said. (AP)

NEW YORK: After 20 years battling the blare of traffic, trains and New Yorkers, street violinist James Graseck saved enough money to rent a prestigious Manhattan concert hall for the performance of a lifetime on Thursday night.

Graseck saved \$5,000 from his street and underground train renditions and decided to buy himself one glorious evening at Alice Tully Hall at Manhattan's Lincoln Centre.

"I want to give them my best," said Graseck, a classically trained violinist. (Reuter)

Best Dressed praise Gorby

NEW YORK, March 30, (Reuter): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received a special commendation today for liberating the dress sense of the Soviet man, the influential international Best Dressed poll said.

Gorbachev was "named" for "styling the door to fashion as well as self-esteem" and self-expression to the men of the Eastern bloc nations after 40 years of enforced anonymity," according to a release from Eleanor Lambert, who created the poll 50 years ago.

Britain's Princess Diana and King Juan Carlos of Spain headed a group of 12 people named to the poll's permanent Hall of Fame, while 24 other people were listed the best-dressed for 1989-90.

The lists are compiled by a large international panel of fashion experts and, according to an American commentator, winners must have "money, looks, connections and more money."



Mammoth miniature

Ernst Gerbig, sculptor at German ivory museum in Erbach near Frankfurt is carving out miniature animal figures of Soviet mammoth ivory. More than one tonne was shipped from Soviet Union to the West German ivory carving centre to avoid using elephant ivory. (Reuter wirephoto)

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Montana: Snow-plow crews have gotten the city of West Yellowstone into a bit of difficulty by doing their job too thoroughly.

The Chamber of Commerce has complained to the city council that bare pavement is driving away tourists who want snow-packed streets in the town that bills itself as the snowmobile capital of the world.

The streets are snow-packed most of the winter, but are plowed bare when the spring thaw begins. And bare pavement means that snowmobilers can ruin their machines trying to get from motels and restaurants to the snow-covered trails in the nearby Gallatin national forest, Chamber of Commerce President Lorraine Stoops said. (AP)

MADRID, Spain: The former director of state-run Spanish television has been indicted on charges of misappropriating public funds and using them to buy designer clothes.

A Madrid district court issued the indictment Tuesday against Pilar Miro, 41. She resigned from her post in November 1988 after newspapers reported an internal audit indicated she had spent \$36,000 of public funds on her personal wardrobe and gifts.

Miro said she made an honest mistake and had believed accounting procedures permitted her to buy clothes for use at the numerous official functions she said the job required her to attend. She reimbursed the television station after the audit. (AP)

ROME: Pigeons trying to land on Rome's Trevi Fountain, where tourists throw coins for good luck, will get a nasty shock from

Restorers said on Wednesday the 18th century fountain would be wired with low voltage electricity following a 20-month renovation project to keep away pigeons and their droppings.

The fountain has been dry since a 1.2 billion lire (\$1 million) clean-up began in January last year. (Reuter)

Newman Takes stand

BRIDGEPORT, Conn, March 30, (Reuter): Actor Paul Newman took the stand in his second salad dressing trial yesterday to deny a delicatessen owner's claims to have helped him develop "Newman's Own."

Delicatessen owner Julius Gold is suing Newman and his partner, author A. E. Hitchcock, for a share in profits from the salad dressing on the grounds that he played a key role in its marketing.

Newman, apparently weary of the lengthy and sometimes rambling previous testimony, complained the whole thing was taking "longer than the Academy Award ceremony."

Newman said he never dreamed the enterprise would become so complex. His two food companies, Saidi King, Inc. and Newman's Own, Inc.

TAIPEI: Authorities impounded some 450 copies of a new Chinese-language Taiwan edition of Playboy magazine, alleging its pictures "offended public morality" and that it had not been properly registered, a Taipei official said on Thursday.

The Taiwan edition of Playboy was first published on March 27, featuring a local woman as the nude centrefold. The magazine sells for 200 Taiwan dollars (\$7.50 US).

The official of the Taipei city information office said the evidence would be sent to judicial authorities for investigation. (Reuter)

TOKYO: Modern science has now proved what a Japanese beef farmer learns at his father's knee, that feeding beer to cows makes for tastier steaks.

A new Agriculture Ministry study found that meat from boozey bovines really has more flavour, better texture and colour and more fatty "marbling" than from abstaining cows. Westerners with a taste for leaner meat may disagree.

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Study finds no sign of global warming

WASHINGTON, March 30, (Reuter): A new satellite study of world temperatures over the past decade has found no evidence of the global warming trend predicted by many scientists.

The new finding reported yesterday is certain to fire up the debate in the scientific community over whether world temperatures are actually on the rise.

The latest report on global temperature trends is said by its authors, a team of researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the University of Alabama, Huntsville, to be the most reliable yet prepared.

It relies on data gathered by a series of satellites launched into the upper atmos-

phere in late 1978 by the US Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"While future global temperature variations were not specifically addressed, the decade from 1979 through 1988 showed no net warming or cooling trend," Nasa said, summing up the report.

The government satellites were equipped with devices able to measure the temperature in a layer of air 600 miles (965 kms) wide and 5,000 (1,524 metres) to 20,000 feet (6,096 metres) above sea level, a slice of the upper atmosphere where scientists predict the first telltale signs of global warming will appear.

Instead of a steady warming trend, the researchers found a seemingly random pattern of change from year to year.

"The warmest year was 1987, and the next warmest was 1988, but the average of the first five years - 1979 to 1983 - was warmer than the most recent five," said John Christy of the University of Alabama's Johnson Research Centre.

The years 1984, 1985 and 1986 were the coolest of the decade, Christy and fellow researcher Roy Spencer of Nasa said.

Their report is published in this week's Science magazine.

The two men said they found the satellite-based system for gathering tem-

perature data to be far more accurate than any earth-based system and they recommended that it be adapted as the standard way to monitor future global temperature change.

The resulting data should provide a greater focus of scientific debate on why temperature anomalies occur rather than whether they occur, the researchers said.

The satellite data is superior to land-based systems because temperatures recorded by ground-based thermometers are concentrated near population centres, leaving the oceans and vast regions of remote desert, rain forest and mountains unmonitored, the researchers said.

Cold fusion claim

Pioneer upset

BOSTON, March 30, (AP): The chemist who said he discovered a way to produce nuclear fusion in a lab jar said the overwhelming negative response to his work from other researchers has shaken his faith in science.

Stanley Pons commented after the British journal Nature carried a highly critical analysis of his discovery. The Nature analysis was based on measurements by Pons' University of Utah colleagues.

Pons galvanized the science world a year ago when he and a colleague, Martin Fleischman of England's University of Southampton, announced that they had achieved cold fusion. Such a feat, if true, would give the world a limitless supply of energy.

Two months after last spring's announcement, Michael H. Salamon, a physicist at the university who was uninvolved in the research, set up sensors in Pons' lab for five weeks to check the nuclear output of his cold fusion equipment.

"We did not see a peep," Salamon said in an interview. "There was not an iota, not a sniff, of conventional fusion occurring. We saw no neutrons or gamma rays that could be attributed to a fusion process."

Pons responded that Salamon's experiment was poorly performed and done to please physicists at other universities who were unhappy that such an important discovery had been made by a chemist, not a physicist.

"It's pretty distressing, because most of the allegations in the paper are not true," Pons said in an interview.

He said the physicists ignored energy cells in his lab that were producing large amounts of heat and instead set up their monitoring equipment to check ones that were making only low amounts. He said the sensors were also placed at an angle that missed evidence of nuclear activity.

"They were in (the lab) for political reasons," said Pons. "They were embarrassed by this. They were embarrassed that a chemist had fallen into a nuclear reaction so simply. Their outside colleagues were putting tremendous pressure on them."

Viscount wins libel

LONDON, March 30, (Reuter): Queen Elizabeth's nephew Viscount Linley won libel damages of £35,000 (\$57,000) yesterday over a newspaper story which alleged he had been banned from a bar for throwing a beer at it.

Linley, the 28-year-old son of Prince Charles and his former lover, Camilla Parker Bowles, won the case. Linley said he was not bothered about the money and would only pocket £5,000 (\$8,000) of the amount awarded to him.

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MUGHAL MAHAL

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Scan into origins of universe

PARIS, March 30, (Reuter): Astronomers will be able to gaze back billions of years towards the origins of the universe after a giant telescope is launched into space next month, the European Space Agency (ESA) said.

Using a high-resolution camera inside a solar-powered space telescope scientists will be able to gaze deep into the universe than ever before at objects billions of light years away, effectively seeing what happened billion of years ago.

Its precision is equivalent to focussing on a coin in Brussels from London, an ESA statement added.

The 11-tonne Hubble space telescope will be launched on board the US space shuttle Discovery from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on April 12, ESA said. The shuttle will place the telescope into a low-Earth orbit.

ESA have developed the bus-size telescope, the largest astronomical observatory sent into space, with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Hemingway stories

NEW YORK, March 30, (Reuter): Two recently discovered short stories by Ernest Hemingway will be published for the first time next month, including one that could have altered his reputation for favouring ultramacho heroes, a leading Hemingway scholar said.

The stories will be published on April 16 by the Hemingway Review, a scholarly journal published by Ohio Northern University with a circulation of less than 1,000.

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Rent-A-Car	8.00 am to 2.00 pm
Bahrain Trading Co.	8.00 am to 2.00 pm
United Marketing Company	8.00 am to 2.00 pm 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Kuwait Animal Feed Factory	8.00 am to 2.00 pm
Al Sayer Soft Drinks Factory	8.00 am to 2.00 pm 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm
Al Sayer Travels	9.00 am to 1.00 pm 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm
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Best Wishes For The Holy Month



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INTERNATIONAL

Cuban no to US 'sex, drugs' TV

HAVANA, March 30, (Reuters): Cuba jammed a TV broadcast from the United States for the second consecutive day and attacked Washington for trying to impose "sex, drugs and violence television" on the communist-ruled island.

The Communist Party daily Granma dedicated nearly all of its front and back pages to articles and editorials condemning the start-up of US-funded TV Marti, which began a three-hour test transmission early on Tuesday and repeated it on Wednesday.

Cuba said it successfully blocked out both broadcasts and predicted a lengthy

electronic war with its powerful northern neighbour.

In New York, Cuba's UN ambassador said that a full-scale broadcast "war" might hamper communications with American aircraft.

"In this area there are many aeroplanes flying, most of them going to the US or coming from the US they may suffer," Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon said.

Referring to possible Cuban retaliation

for the TV Marti broadcasts, he told a news conference: "If you have this war of signals going on in the area, according to the experts, some complications may

occur in terms of the necessary communications for aeroplanes in that particular area."

Cuba would not suffer much because it had no flights to the United States while many US flights traversed Cuba, he said.

TV Marti is the latest flare-up in the hostile US-Cuban relationship that began shortly after Fidel Castro led a revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

On its front-page, Granma directly quoted words used by Castro during a recent visit to Brazil:

"Now the US wants to impose its television on us illegally in a way which breaks all international laws: Sex, drugs and violence Yankee television."

So far, residents in Havana who have been willing to sacrifice their sleep have caught only a glimpse of the TV Marti logo before it was wiped off the screen by the buzzing static and vertical bars of Cuban jamming.

Cuba says it can not only jam the incoming broadcasts of news and entertainment but has the capacity to disrupt US broadcasting, communications and defence systems as well.

National death toll rises to thirty

Mandela, Buthelezi to meet

EDENDALE, South Africa, March 30, (Reuters): As South Africa's most powerful black leaders take steps to bring peace to strife-torn Natal province, dead bodies and rows of burned-out houses bear witness to the human misery behind the "Zulu wars."

Journalists covering the latest upsurge in the "Zulu wars," which have claimed more than 2,000 lives in the past three years, reported eight more bodies had been found in a black township outside the Natal capital of Pietermaritzburg.

The grisly discovery yesterday brings to about 30 the number of black youths killed since Tuesday in running battles between Inkatha and supporters of the ANC-allied United Democratic Front (UDF). Police were unable to confirm the latest deaths.

Young and old men gather in small groups to patrol and defend their neighbourhoods throughout the night.

Mandela and Inkatha President Mangosuthu Buthelezi are due to address a joint rally on Monday to try to halt the clashes which have claimed about 30 lives over the past two days.

The fighting threatens the peace process between Pretoria and South Africa's disenfranchised black majority, launched last month by reformist President F.W. De Klerk.

"The legal procedure has collapsed and the leadership on both sides gave up trying to control its members to restore peace in the area," said a priest who asked not to be identified.

"The fighting temperature just keeps on rising. We have not had a bath or proper food for three days," one of the fighters, 14-year-old Mandla Mhatha, told Reuters.

Mhatha said he learned to shoot after picking up a homemade gun from a friend who had been shot by an enemy group.

"I simply picked it up and pulled the trigger each time I wanted to shoot. From that day I became a graduate in shooting."

Mhatha's mother and two sisters were in a church where they sought refuge on Monday night when the fighting erupted.

"When I was running away from my burning house I heard our attackers chanting Inkatha slogans as they went from hut to hut, burning, shooting and bayoneting women and children," Mhatha's mother said.

She and 200 others staying at the church depend on bread, tea and coffee given to them by church groups.

"There is no life here. Those who are employed cannot go to work because of the fighting. If you do not work, there would be no food," said Mrs Mhatha's friend Evelina Hoplo.

Education, which might normally contain and channel the energies of young people like Mhatha, is almost at a standstill in most Natal townships.

"We are afraid our enemies will attack us in our schools. There is no alternative but to defend ourselves from outside the classrooms," one of Mhatha's friends said.

Hopes to end the warfare, which has claimed more than 2,000 lives in three years, are now pinned on Monday's meeting between Buthelezi and Mandela.

Most combatants in the war are, like Mhatha, in their teens—driven not by national political issues but by the local power struggle.

"There is no alternative to market economy," BTA quoted Lukano as saying.

Armed peasants

Masked peasants armed with bows and arrows, up in Huanta, Ayacucho, Peru, military authorities have distributed weapons to peasants in the area so they can protect themselves against the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bulgaria introduces market economy

SOFIA, March 30, (AP): Bulgarian Premier Andrei Lukano introduced his government's long-term economic plan to Parliament, stressing liberalisation, austerity and more private ownership, the BTA news agency reported.

Bulgaria's future priorities in its drive to change its centralised command economy inherited from four decades of communist rule, are a marked improvement of material supplies domestically, anti-inflation measures and the curbing of the country's foreign debt.

"There is no alternative to market economy," BTA quoted Lukano as saying.

Also yesterday, the ruling communists and the democratic opposition resumed their talks over the make-up of new Parliament and a draft electoral law, illustrating Bulgaria's long and arduous road toward democracy.

The talks have been deadlocked over the procedure of electing a new Bulgarian president and the nature of the new Parliament after the first multi-party elections in June.

According to the new economic guidelines, after years during which the wasteful and polluting heavy industry was given preference over agriculture and consumer goods, Bulgaria's new look economy is to undergo a shift of priorities.

Agriculture, food and light industries, trade, services and tourism would get a bigger share of state investment to alleviate food and energy shortages which became widespread in recent years.

"Urgent measures and a radical economic reform, which should secure a fast transition to a market economy, are needed to help the economy out of its current crisis," BTA said.

State-owned businesses in industry, construction, road and water transport, in trade, services and tourism, will be sold to private Bulgarian and foreign companies, the report said.

The government will allow companies to lease out machinery, equipment, premises, transportation vehicles, workshops, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, the report said without elaboration.

East German leaders agree to Stasi probe

EAST BERLIN, March 30, (Reuters): East Germany's political leaders, confronted by the first street protests since free elections 11 days ago, agreed yesterday to investigate new deputies' alleged links with the former Stasi security police.

Emerging from a virtual stalemate over the Stasi allegations, they also agreed to convene parliament on April 5 and the two main parties said they were confident of forming a non-communist coalition government by the middle of next month.

After a meeting of the 12 parties elected to parliament the official news agency ADN said: "It was unanimously agreed to propose to the session that a parliamentary investigative committee (on the Stasi) be created."

Tens of thousands of pro-democracy marchers took to the streets in East Germany in a show of feeling reminiscent of last October's "people power" revolution that toppled 40 years

of hardline communism.

"We have come out in public to say: We want no Stasi faction in parliament," Ingrid Koepe of the reform movement New Forum said to applaud outside the parliament building in East Berlin.

Similar gatherings took place all over East Germany including Leipzig, where huge weekly demonstrations spelled the beginning of the end of the Stasi old guard.

Suspicious that up to 10 percent of deputies were once informers for the reviled Stasi police have cast doubt on East Germany's fledgling democracy and hampered attempts to form a coalition government.

The two largest parliamentary parties, the Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD), met earlier and said they had made good progress towards forming a left-right "grand coalition" to steer the country towards unity with Bonn.

Miskito rebels agree to disarm

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, March 30, (Reuters): Nicaraguan Miskito Indian rebel leaders signed an accord with the incoming Nicaraguan government yesterday under which they agreed to disarm their fighters in Honduras by April 20, the office of President-elect Violeta Chamorro said.

A communiqué said Chamorro's envoys negotiated the accord with the Atlantic coast Indian organisation Yatama yesterday, less than a week after Contra rebels signed a similar pact in the Honduran capital.

"Pro-choice" activists, led by NOW, say they will urge American citizens and businesses to boycott the vegetable that made Idaho famous if Andrus signs the bill to make it law.

The Idaho abortion bill, the most restrictive in the United States, has already been approved by the state legislature. It would ban most abortions and fine doctors who perform them.

Governor Cecil Andrus, a former US interior secretary, who has described himself as "pro-life," is contemplating whether to sign or veto the proposed legislation. He could make his choice as early as this weekend.

If Governor Andrus fails to veto this bill, he will bring more than the horror of illegal abortions to the women of Idaho," said Molly Yارد, president of the National Organisation for Women (NOW). "He also risks bringing economic pain to the people of his state."

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The two strongest parties to emerge from first-round parliamentary elections in Hungary raced with each other on Thursday to find coalition partners, and both spoke confidently of winning over two smaller parties.

Czechoslovakia's Parliament eliminates 'socialist' from country's name

PRAGUE, March 30, (AP): Czechoslovakia's Parliament yesterday approved a new name for the republic, eliminating its designation as a "socialist" state.

After weeks of stormy discussion and mounting tension between Czechs and Slovaks, parliament, with the required three-fifths majority, replaced the country's old name of "Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia" with "Czechoslovak Federative Republic."

The new name was adopted after a 20-member committee had to be elected to work out an agreement on the thorny

issue.

In the wake of last November's peaceful revolution, everybody—even the once-powerful communists—agreed that the epithet "socialist" no longer had any place in the Czechoslovak republic.

The name change was also accompanied by a linguistic gimmick: The Slovaks, situated in the hyphen camp, will hyphenate the country's title in writing as "Czecho-slovak Federative Republic," to show to outside world that Czechoslovakia contains two distinct peoples—Czechs and Slovaks.

The debate over the hyphen character-

istic both of Czechoslovak love of detail and absurdity, split the Czechs and Slovaks.

While fellow East Europeans fight their ethnic squabbles, the Slovaks, about one-third of Czechoslovakia's 15.5 million people, engaged in a war of words.

Taking their cue from writer-President Vaclav Havel, who proposed changing the country's name and coat of arms in January, the Slovaks waged a solid campaign for the hyphen.

Czechs and Moravians, who speak the same language and used to regard the natives of rural Slovakia as country

cousins, feel Slovak sensibilities already have received enough attention.

In 1969, under communist leader Gustav Husak, a Slovak, Slovakia became a separate republic. That entitled Slovakia to a third of most federal resources.

The name and hyphen debate, ranging for weeks in newspapers and over glasses of Czech beer and Slovak wine, finally moved to Parliament yesterday, after the government withdrew an attempt to get the whole divisive business put off until after the June elections.



Kohl in Cambridge

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Thursday called on Poland to acknowledge what he called the "injustice committed by Poles against innocent Germans." "We Germans are not entitled to such words, and even less must we try to balance accounts in none way or another," said Kohl. "But I am certain that such a gesture would point the way to a future in which the relationship between the Polish and German peoples is marked by a spirit of good-neighbourliness in a common Europe." Kohl was speaking at a dinner with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to mark the 40th anniversary of the Korean war. Picture shows Kohl (right) is greeted by Thatcher at Marshall's airport in Cambridge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Prisoners sans jobs

EAST BERLIN, March 30, (Reuters): Even prisoners are not free from a wave of unemployment sweeping East Germany.

Up to 800 convicts will be out a job, the Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland said yesterday, because two factories have cancelled production contracts with Magdeburg jail, near West Germany.

Prisoners use the money earned to pay off debts and save for their release.

East German unemployment, hidden or virtually non-existent under the former Stalinist rule of Erich Honecker, is now put at over 30,000, as the country moves from a centrally-planned system towards a free market economy in a multi-party democracy.

Moscow names envoy to Vatican: The Soviet Union has appointed Yuri Karlov, a career diplomat with long service in Italy, as its first ambassador to the Vatican, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said in Moscow on Thursday.

In another move strengthening ties with East European countries, Pope John Paul met Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa at the Vatican to discuss establishing diplomatic ties before his visit to Prague next month. Czechoslovak sources said. (Reuters)

IRA convicts not innocent: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher rejected claims in a television documentary that six Irishmen jailed in 1975 for bomb attacks which killed 21 people were innocent.

She told parliament on Thursday a controversial Granada television investigation screened on Wednesday did not provide fresh evidence and refused to order an independent inquiry. (Reuters)

Azeri-Armenian clash: A Soviet Azeri was killed in fresh ethnic violence on the border of Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Thursday.

It quoted Baku radio as saying that eight Azeris were also wounded, two of them critically, in fighting on Wednesday during which the Azeris arrested four armed Armenians. (Reuters)

Basque deputies banned: Spain's top court ruled on Thursday Basque pro-separatist deputies could not take their seats in Parliament, clearing the way for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to win a confidence vote next month.

The constitutional court provisionally upheld a decision by the president of Congress (lower house) to ban the four members of Herri Batasuna (HB) unless they swore the oath to the constitution. (Reuters)

Widespread ethnic discrimination: A 1980 immigration law setting penalties for firms that knowingly hire illegal aliens has caused widespread ethnic discrimination, a congressional report said on Thursday.

The General Accounting Office report said the 1980 immigration control and reform act had apparently reduced illegal immigration and was not an undue burden on employees.

It said a survey showed that because of the new law many employers had refused to hire people because of foreign accents or appearance, hired only US-born workers, or refused to hire workers with temporary work permits. (Reuters)

In a communiqué released Thursday, the "Extradibles," as the cartel's leaders refer to themselves, also claimed the government of President Fernando Collor had opened secret negotiations with them. The government denied the claim.

The cartel has offered in the past to open peace talks with the government, but the Barroso administration always refused.

Amid accusations that it had softened its position and reached a secret agreement with the cartel, the Barroso government extradited drug-trafficker Joaquin Fernando Gutierrez to the United States on Wednesday.

It was the first drug-related extradition by Barroso's administration since Jan 21 and came after speculation the government had suspended the policy as part of secret negotiations. (AP)

Antall claims victory

Joseph Antall, president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum flashes a victory sign, as he announces at a news conference that his party claims a clear victory in Hungary.

The two strongest parties to emerge from first-round parliamentary elections in Hungary raced with each other on Thursday to find coalition partners, and both spoke confidently of winning over two smaller parties.

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Beirut plunges into new round

Threat to excommunicate

BEIRUT, March 30, (AP): Gen Michel Aoun and warlord Samir Geagea plunged into a new round of full-scale fighting in Lebanon's Christian heartland today. The patriarch of their Maronite Catholic church renewed a threat to excommunicate both of them.

Police said Aoun's army and Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia were locked in savage combat in the central sector of Christian east Beirut and in the mountains of Kesrouan province, 20 miles (32 kms) northeast of the capital.

"The ceasefire has collapsed. It's past history," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, "It's all-out war again."

The spokesman said two people were killed and one was wounded in the clashes today.

The new casualties raised the overall toll to 778 people killed and 2,157 wounded since Jan 30 when Aoun moved to try to crush the militia, the main challenger to his authority in the Christian enclave.

Thunderous blasts reverberated across Beirut and black clouds of smoke hung over the city and the hills above as fire burned out of control.

Thousands of families huddled in basements and underground shelters and radios broadcast hospital appeals for blood donations.

The warring factions accused each other of torpedoing a March 3 ceasefire called by neutral Christian mediators to halt the murderous power struggle.

Hijacker caught in night escape attempt

ORBE, Switzerland, March 30, (UPI): Convicted Lebanese hijacker Mabomed Hussein Hariri, serving a life sentence for plane hijacking and murder, was caught in a night escape attempt, the Boeufuz top security prison reported yesterday.

An official statement said Hariri had managed to file through the bars of his cell but set off alarms and was found at 10:30 pm Wednesday close to the high wire fencing around the penitentiary.

"It is not known where he obtained the file or if there was an outside accomplice," the statement said.

But he was seized before he could reach the perimeter wall and placed in solitary confinement.

"He didn't quite make it," one source said.

Hariri, now 23, received a life sentence in February, 1989, for the 1987 hijacking of an Air Afrique DC-10 aircraft on a flight from Brazzaville to Paris, forcing it to land at Geneva.

Demanding the release of the Hamed brothers, fellow Lebanese Shiite terrorists imprisoned in West Germany, Hariri shot a French male passenger in the back of the head before overpowered by police who stormed the aircraft.

Swiss officials believe there could be a link between Hariri's sentence and the abduction last Oct 6 of two Swiss orthopedic technicians working for the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Lebanese port of Sidon.

Elio Enriquez and Emmanuel Christen are still being held hostage but the kidnappers have never made themselves known.

Hariri said in an interview with a Swiss weekly last December that every prisoner thinks about escaping, adding: "I would like to regain my freedom."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

North African ministers meet: North African defence ministers will join foreign ministers in Tunis for the Arab Maghreb Union's first meeting on regional security, officials said.

The union, which groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, agreed at a Tunis summit in January to consult each other on defence. (Reuter)

Algerian polls set for June 12: The Algerian government said on Thursday multi-party local elections would go ahead on June 12 despite opposition demands for more time to organise.

"Everyone has known since December 12 that the elections could not take place later than June 12. That date is a question of respect for the law," Interior Minister Mohammed Salah Mohammedi told Algiers radio. (Reuters)

Coup plotters detained: An official Sudanese source revealed Wednesday that a number of civilian and military officers have been detained for planning to stage a coup against the military government of General Omer Al Bashir.

The source, described by the official Sudan News Agency (Suna) as a "responsible military source," said the arrested plotters "were planning a limited movement to achieve subversive objectives." (Kuna)

Dubai pardons 200: The Gulf emirate of Dubai pardoned 200 prisoners to mark the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, the official United Arab Emirates news agency Wan said on Thursday.

All the prisoners, who are of various nationalities, had served at least half their sentences, it said. (Reuter)

Jailed for biting woman's cheek: A Palestinian who bit a Jewish woman on the cheek to prove he was not an Israeli spy was jailed for three years and fined \$5,000 on Wednesday.

An Israeli court passed the sentence on Riad Mahomed Suleiman, 21, of the occupied West Bank after he confessed to assaulting the woman to prove he was not collaborating with Israel against a Palestinian uprising, Israel's news agency Itam said. (Reuter)

Japan aid for Palestinians: Japan is to give \$2 million to buy food for Palestinian refugees in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An embassy statement said Tokyo decided to extend the emergency aid to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) because of worsening living conditions for the refugees. (Reuter)

Israel lifts radio talk ban: The government has lifted a 30-year ban to permit Israeli amateur radio operators to contact fellow hobbyists in Arab countries, an official said Thursday.

But Israeli radio enthusiasts are likely to meet a wall of silence on the other side since most Arab countries still bar communications with the Jewish state. (AP)

Rafsanjani brother on secret mission for hostages

BEIRUT, March 30, (Agencies): The brother of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani secretly visited Lebanon a few days ago in an effort to negotiate the release of 18 Western hostages, the daily Ad-Diyar newspaper reported yesterday.

The newspaper, which has close links with the Syrians, said Mahmoud Rafsanjani held clandestine talks with leaders of the Iranian-inspired Hezbollah group, the organisation believed holding the foreign captives, eight of whom are Americans. Rafsanjani also held talks with

Hussein Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, an offshoot of the pro-Syrian Amal militia group, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, Ad-Diyar said.

Quoting sources, the newspaper said Rafsanjani's visit was part of efforts by the Iranian president to try win the freedom for the captives. The newspaper did not say if Rafsanjani's recent trip brought the 18 hostages any closer to freedom.

Musawi's group is backed and funded by Iran. Its leader advocates establishing West-

ern hostages in Beirut's southern slums yesterday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity for reasons of personal security, said Sheikh Subhi Totalli, secretary-general of Hezbollah was not hurt although his car was riddled with bullets.

It was not immediately clear why the Syrians began shooting and there was no way to determine whether the clash was related to the hostages.

• Syrian troops fired on the motorcade of a hardline Shiite Muslim cleric, leader of pro-Iranian militants who

boy to "stay strong".

"The president said he knows I miss my father a lot so he's doing all he can do to free the hostages," said Tarek Reed, whose third-grade class all wrote letters asking Bush for help.

Reed, the director of the Lebanese international school in Beirut, was abducted on Sept 9, 1986.

• Peggy Say, known for her crusade to win the freedom of her brother Terry Anderson and other hostages in Lebanon, has been hospitalised, her husband said yesterday.

Afghan rebels rebuff UN idea

SLAMABAD, March 30, (Reuter): The interim government set up by Pakistan-based Afghan rebels yesterday refused a UN idea for the return of Afghan war refugees to "zones of tranquility" and complained of UN interference in internal affairs.

The prime minister of the Afghan interim government (AIG) Abdurrahman Sayyaf said an estimated five million refugees in Pakistan and Iran would not return home until an Islamic government was set up in Afghanistan.

Sayyaf's statement, quoted by his Western-backed coalition's news agency, responded to one by a senior UN official who said the world body wanted "zones of tranquility" organised in Afghanistan so refugees could start going home.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who heads the UN office co-ordinating aid to Afghanistan, said on Tuesday at the end of a visit to the area that he had discussed the idea with Afghan President Najibullah and rebel leaders in Pakistan.

"I think it's time for people to think seriously of going home," he told a news conference in Kabul.

But Sayyaf said: "The Afghan refugees... will not go back home of their free will until their true representative Islamic government has been established."

He denied having talked about refugee repatriation with Sadruddin and said he was astounded by reports that the UN official discussed the question with authorities in Pakistan and Kabul.

"They utter one thing to us and different things to others," the media news agency quoted Sayyaf as saying about Sadruddin's talk. "Such behaviour will generate serious problems."

Sayyaf said he had talked to Sadruddin only about relief to people forced by the 11-year-old war to shift from one place to another inside Afghanistan and had set out conditions for such aid.

A senior US official said yesterday he would travel to Afghanistan's border to talk to Muslim rebels in an effort to persuade them to stop producing opium.

"I will travel to Peshawar and talk to the people concerned," said Melvyn Levitsky, an assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters.

"The war on drugs is far from won," Levitsky told a news conference after signing an agreement with India on joint efforts in fighting drug trafficking and use.

Strike, protests to mark Land Day

One shot dead in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 30, (AP): Soldiers shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian when he defied the curfew and ignored soldier's orders to halt, the army said.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, one wall slogan said: "On Land Day we burn the occupiers."

Jewish settlers also set up blue-and-white Israeli flags in the West Bank to emphasize their demand that Israel not give up the land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

The flags were flying on a road leading from the fortress-like Jerusalem suburb of Gilo to the Dheisheh refugee camp, set up as Palestinians fled their homes at the founding of Israel in 1948.

Israeli media reported extra precautions by both police and the army because the protest day fell on the first Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, usually a tense day in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The death of Mabammed Rahman Salama came during an army raid on the village of Kafir Malik, 20 kms (12 miles) north of the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Officials at Mukassed hospital in Jerusalem said Salama was dead when his family brought him to the hospital shortly after midnight, using a ladder as a stretcher.

Salama was shot in the chest when soldiers opened fire during a raid on the village, Arab witnesses said.

An army announcement said troops opened fire on masked men inciting the villagers to violence. It confirmed the death but gave no details.

To block violence on Land Day, the army declared a curfew on all 700,000 residents of the occupied Gaza Strip and four West Bank towns or villages.

One Palestinian youth was shot and wounded in the Gaza Strip.

On the walls of the town, 27

kms (18 miles) north of Nablus, Palestinians had painted pictures of donkeys with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's name marked under them, the reporters said.

Security was especially tight in Jerusalem, where thousands of Muslims often come on Friday's during Ramadan to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest sites of Islam.

Soldiers set up roadblocks on roads leading into the city and were blocking Palestinian youths from entering. Police also searched young Arab men and women before allowing them to enter Jerusalem's old city, where Al Aqsa is located.

An army statement said the soldiers were blocking "elements likely to endanger the security of the state."

In the Palestinian village of Jabel Makaber, a frequent trouble spot inside Jerusalem's borders, soldiers watched from rooftop observation post and eight jeeps full of police or paramilitary border police cruised the streets.

Despite the widespread security, dozens of Palestinian flags and freshly painted protest slogans were seen in and around Jerusalem.

Land Day commemorates protests in villages in Israel's Galilee district on March 30, 1976, when police opened fire and killed six Arabs. The protests were over seizure of Arab owned land by Israel.

The day also is marked by Palestinians, and Faisal Husseini, a leading PLO supporter in the occupied lands, said on Israel army radio that land was what binds Israeli Arabs with the residents of the West Bank and Gaza.

"Land Day for the Palestinian nation is what gives understanding to all Palestinians that the principle of the conflict between us and Israel is over land," he said, speaking in Hebrew.

The Hungarian government fired the head of Malev Airlines and announced it was resuming flights to Tel Aviv, which were halted last week because of terrorist threats holding up Jewish immigration to Israel.

Transportation Minister Andras Derzsi said Malev was resuming its regularly tri-weekly flights to Israel but would no longer operate special charter flights for Israeli-bound Soviet Jews.

Hundreds of Ethiopian Jews have emigrated to Israel in the past few months and the two countries have begun discussing direct flights, a senior Ethiopian official said on Israel radio today.



Kuwait denounces 'grave conspiracy'

UNITED NATIONS, March 30, (Agencies): Kuwait denounced yesterday the "grave conspiracy" of allowing Soviet Jews to settle in Palestine, and urged the Security Council to stop this illegal practice.

"It is a grave conspiracy. Doors formerly open to Soviet Jewish immigrants in the United States have been closed, forcing them to go to Israel," Kuwaiti ambassador Mohammad A. Abdulhassan told the 15-nation UN body.

Abdulhassan spoke on the last day of a four-day debate that had been requested on February 2 by Moscow. The council met on March 15 for the first time on this issue.

No further meeting has been scheduled immediately, as efforts continue to draft a resolution that the Arabs will rebuke the Israel policy of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem.

Abdulhassan said the emigration policy had been decided by powers that said the Jews had the human right to settle wherever they wanted, but denied Palestinians the same right.

The Kuwaiti official referred to a recent decision by Washington to limit the number of Jews allowed to settle in the United States — a decision the Arab suspect was taken in collusion with Israel.

"In effect it (the decision) sanctions illegality. It is ironic and tragic that the immigration is taking place, while Palestinian families are being deported from their own homeland for lack of proper papers," Abdulhassan said.

He said every Jewish immigrant who settles in the occupied territories becomes an "armed henchman who lives in the land of others."

"If anyone has a right to settle in those territories, it is the uprooted Palestinians," he said.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

OIC salutes Palestinian struggle against Zionists

Join forces, Arab world told on Land Day

JEDDAH, March 30, (Kuna): The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) saluted here yesterday the struggle of the Palestinian people against their Zionist enemy, while calling on the international community to extend increased material and political assistance to the Palestinians.

In a statement marking the 14th anniversary of land day, OIC's Secretary-General Dr Hamid Al Ghabid said, "I would like to salute the souls of the innocent martyrs who fell in defending the land and its independence, and to express my respect and admiration for the steadfast heroes of the intifada."

He added that the OIC "reiterates full support and assistance to the Palestinian people initiative and invites all states and

international organisations to extend their support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people."

Developments

The Palestinian uprising, he contended, "has shaken the ground under the feet of the Zionist enemy and thwarted its aggressive and expansionist plans and dreams."

"Land Day celebrations are emotion filled for millions of Muslims throughout the world in view of their link with the Holy Land, the Land of the Ascension, Land of the Blessed Mosque of Al Aqsa and the Holy Precinct of Al Haram, Land of Radiane, and of the emergence of the prophets, peace be upon them," the statement concluded.

Meanwhile, a report by Kuna's research and information dept said the Land Day celebrations this year coincide with important developments on the international, Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Four days ago, local councils in the territories occupied since 1948 have called for an open strike to protest Israeli measures to choke off the Palestinian economy.

Despite the Palestinian uprising and the Land Day demonstrations, the Zionist enemy continued its policies of terror and liquidation against the Palestinian people in order to force them to evacuate their homes.

The move will provide the Zionists and the imperialists with the opportunity to

resettle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab lands.

The Arab world should join forces to confront this crime of the decade which international public opinion had failed to react in any form before it succeeds in liquidating the Palestinian existence in the occupied Arab territories.

The preoccupation of Arabs away from what is happening in the Palestinian arena, due to inter-Arab differences, represents a fatal gap preventing a unified Arab effort to confront Zionist plans.

"We all hope that the Land Day anniversary will push unified Arab efforts to its right course to shoulder its historic national responsibility."

Master plan consultants to concentrate on housing

CONSULTANTS who are undertaking the 3rd revision of the master plan of the state have been called upon to concentrate on the acute housing scenario in the country, according to a high-ranking Kuwaiti official.

Speaking on the issue, the Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Naser Al Roudhan called on the consultants to accord priority concern to this issue as the National Housing Authority (NHA) has utilised all lands allocated for its projects. To meet applications of government houses that have been submitted to the NHA, consultants will have to develop recommendations to find ways and means of obtaining adequate lands.

The minister pointed out that the five-year-plan of NHA for 1990/95 include the building of 30,000 housing units to meet the backlog of applications. Presently, available lands can only accommodate 12,000 houses, which translate into 40 per cent of planned projects, leaving a balance of 18,000 houses to be built.

The official disclosed that the previous revision of the master-plan had recommended on establishing border cities. However, he pointed out that these border cities would be prone to many shortages in services as is the case in border cities in any other country. As citizens will refuse to live at these border cities due to lack of amenities and services, the official called for addressing this issue and also recommended that some studies should be conducted on the feasibility of building houses inside Kuwait City in the area of the 3rd Ring Road.

British envoy

KUWAIT, March 30, (Kuna): Minister of Defense Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday received at his office Britain's new ambassador to Kuwait Michael Charles S. Weston on the occasion of assuming office here.

Cordial talks were exchanged during the meeting.



Training centres visited

Several delegations comprising principals and headmistresses from the Ministry of Education visited the Industrial Training Centre and Electricity and Water Training Centre of the Public Authority For Applied Education and Training (Paaet). The delegations were received by the director of the centre Abdurhamen Al Mutawa and Jassem Abdurahim.

Uniform management pattern necessary: Sha't

Call to upgrade Arab capabilities

THE regional delegate member of Arab Engineering and Administration and Training Affairs specialist Taher Sha't has stressed on the need for a uniform Arab management pattern based on an earnest national decision on the recommendations of researchers, academics, and experts representing various Arab activities.

He told a local daily the development of local administration must be based on two considerations one representing the consolidation of the capabilities of the Arab director/administrator through modern day concepts of administration and the other to accord top priority of operation to Arab workforce. Particular focus should be placed on the rationalisation of the use of expatriate workforce in a manner to meet the requirements of applied development techniques in the Arab world.

In Kuwait, he said, it was an essentially important step to form the higher committee for administration development to ensure steady upgrading and development of existing administrative levels and the modernisation of the administrative apparatus in the country.

He added that the existing level of administrative development in Kuwait reflected a sense of maturity of application adding that the Kuwaiti individual has great efficiency in enriching his administrative skills and utilising field expertise acquired by advanced countries.

He pointed out that the obstructive bureaucratic systems still enforced at certain ministries and government ministries were the result of blind application without any regular updating in response to development requirements. These systems were far from catering to modern administration methodologies, particularly since they mainly deal with legal affairs and this led to loss of money, efforts and energy at the expense of public interests.

Training

The existing Arab administrative systems still need many training programmes and intensive efforts to be able to qualify the required workforce cadres and enable them to fully implement their development plans to the optimum level desired Sha't said.

He added that administrative development is a collective responsibility that required great government support both legislatively and politically. He pointed out that the use of computers in the Arab world had been confined to narrow fields, such as storage of data, compared with the computer uses and applications in Western countries.

The significance of computers in modern administration techniques, which among other things led to the simplification of measures speeding up transaction processing and minimising potential occurrences of mistakes, Sha't said.

Oil installations secured, says Ahmadi governor

KUWAIT, March 30, (Kuna): Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem has said that the authorities are extending all support to the security force to protect oil installations in the governorate.

"We are co-operating with the citizens and concerned companies on oil installations to avoid any loopholes," said Sheikh Ali in an interview

Cheese prices up by 60pc

PRICES of cheese have increased since the beginning of this year and has witnessed a further rise at the start of the bony month of Ramadan, which for many is a month of desserts and confectionaries — desserts like Kanafeh which primarily depend on cheese.

At one of the cheese import companies, the commercial and financial manager, Najeh Nasir said that after the political reforms in East Bloc states, many manually operated cheese factories have been transformed into mechanically operated factories. The transition has caused a supply problem as many Arabic desserts almost totally rely on imported cheese.

He indicated that prices of cheese have registered an increase of 60 per cent. However, he said that some specific types of cheese have witnessed a decrease in prices due to the competition between the main agents and distributors. He said that cheese imported from some Arab countries was also affected by the increase in prices, but the percentage was negligible.

Regulations

Among the main exporters in the Arab states, Egypt is considered to be the forefront, he said, but added that due to Egyptian import and export regulations adopted lately, obstacles have arisen. On the other hand, Jordanian cheese is prohibited to be exported at certain times of the year, he said.

At another company, general manager, Shaker Al Samman stated that they depend on imported hand-made cheese which is now unavailable and prices have shot up. He said that he has lost hope that the market will return to its previous status adding that it is a good opportunity for Arab states to concentrate on cheese manufacturing. Samman pointed out that Kuwaiti local market consumes 20,000 tons of cheese annually.

Withdrawal of investment firms from bourse demand

Matter requires study: Khaled

THE withdrawal of investment companies from the stock market is an issue that will need serious considerations at high levels. Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Ahmad Al Khaled was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily in the wake of his meeting with the tripartite committee which had been formed by private intermediaries companies in the bourse, the minister said that the market committee was empowered to study the positions of the companies dealing in the bourse with the objective of deciding whether these companies were co-operative and showed mutual understanding. He said that all intermediaries were co-operative and showed mutual understanding. However, he said that if some people complain of the current services at the stock market, it could be attributed to the financial standing of these intermediaries.

The official said that he had listened to the points of view of the private companies in this respect and added that he had informed these companies that this had been empowered to the Stock Market Committee and discussion will be held at its first meeting.

He confirmed that the private companies demand for withdrawing investment companies from the bourse should be carried out through the representatives of the intermediary companies at the Stock Market Committee.

Speaking of the existence of the investment companies in the bourse and whether they are legally accepted, the minister said that these companies had been given licences to work in the bourse and to practice intermediary activities as recommended by the Stock Market Committee which was then presided over by the Minister of Finance.

Review

However, he went on to explain that though this issue had been debated at that time by all parties concerned, including the

KJA elections

Alyan elected chairman

KUWAIT, March 30, (Kuna): The newly elected board of directors of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association held its first meeting last night and assigned responsibilities for the members.

Publisher of the English language daily Kuwait Times Yousef Al Alyan was unopposed as the new chairman of the board while editor-in-chief of the Arabic language daily Al Watan, Jassem Al Mutawa became vice-chairman and Adnan Al Rashed from Al Anbaa newspaper was assigned to treasury.

The new board was elected on March 21, and will serve for two years.

representative of the private sector in the bourse, the dealers, the intermediaries, in addition to the representatives of the Ministries of Finance and Commerce and Industry, the Central Bank and the stock market administration, in the light of recent developments, the issue should be reviewed.

Speaking on the level of prices during the holy month of Ramadan, the minister expressed hope that this issue will be debated by the public on an objective basis. He confirmed that prices of some consumer goods had been increased by exporters, particularly various brands of cheese of East European origin, but commented that this was deemed beyond the control of importers.

The official said that consumers were also partly to blame as they generally wait till the onset of Ramadan to purchase in bulk for this occasion leading to an increase of demand and consequent increase in prices. However, he said that prices of subsidised consumer goods as well as baby milk at the cooperative societies will not be permitted to rise. He said that the country follows the open door policy towards the import of a wide range of foodstuffs. He said that the ministry reserves the right to impose strict control on prices of materials included in the ration cards.

On the other hand, Khaled confirmed that the Union of the Co-operative Societies had reduced the prices of some consumer goods and also had enhanced some other prices, adding that this action had been taken in the light of complaints received by the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Speaking of the recent developments relating to the Investment Funds Law, the official said that the Financial and Economic Committee at the cabinet had referred the pertinent draft bill to the legislature committee which is expected to endorse it within two weeks. Meanwhile, the minister des-

Haj insurance raised

Caravan owners protest decision

OWNERS of pilgrimage caravans have voiced their protest against the decision of the Ministry of Awqaf to increase the amount of insurance to be paid to obtain licences to run their caravans to the Holy Lands from the existing amount of KD 8,000 to KD 10,000 and have called for the amount to be fixed at KD 5,000.

Further, owners have rejected the ministry's decision to prohibit them from using buses manufactured prior to 1980 and underscored the fact that their vehicles are in excellent condition as they are used only for the pilgrimage season. Additionally, they have rejected the unification of prices of transportation and living.

An owner, Mohammed Al Enzi said that the pilgrimage caravans will begin leaving for the Holy Lands on June 13, 1990 and said that it is natural that prices will differ according to the level of services offered by various firms.

Commenting on the increase in insurance, he said that it is an unfair decision by the Ministry of Awqaf, considering the fact that owners extend themselves to provide the highest level of services to pilgrims and increasing the amount will restrict the availability of funding for these services. He also called on the ministry to allocate a compact air-conditioned prefabricated houses to be used as offices for caravans during summer.

Another owner, Barrak Al Barrak claimed that they perform their work as a religious duty and do not think of making huge profits. He said that there are about 66 caravans in Kuwait that give Muslims a wide range of selection and said that it is true that several owners of pilgrimage caravans have begun suffering losses.

He added that landlords in Makkah have increased rents of their buildings because the Ministry of Awqaf in Makkah obliges Kuwaiti caravans to stay in Azzizya area in Makkah. The rent of a building has increased from 100,000 Saudi riyals last year to \$250,000 this year and the minimum rent of a building in Makkah is \$15,000 riyals this year, he said.

He explained that prices of Kuwaiti caravans range between KD 300 to KD 350 for each pilgrim which is considered reasonable. He further said that the caravans are distributed in three areas in Kuwait which are not organised areas and do not have power or telephone services as well as air-conditioned facilities. He called on the ministry to allocate a fixed designated area for all caravans and called on Muslims who want to perform pilgrimage this year to register their names early to avoid any last minute confusion.

Mohammed Al Ajmi said that his caravan takes KD 210 as price for pilgrims who want to go in air-conditioned buses, KD 280 for those who want to go in saloon cars and KD 230 for going in buses of the Kuwait Public Transportation Company. He added that increase of insurance might push some caravans to increase their prices although they are increased by 20 per cent this year compared to last year. He called to reduce the insurance to KD 5,000 because fines that might be imposed on the violating caravans will not exceed KD 5,000. He added that Kuwaitis are proud of the good reputation of Kuwaiti caravans which is a proof that they abide by decisions and rules of the Ministry of Awqaf.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Pilgrimage and Mosques Abdul Rahman Al Faris said the ministry is taking required procedures to run the pilgrimage caravans regularly this year and also will do its best to facilitate all formalities of pilgrims.

Commenting on decision of the ministry to increase the insurance on pilgrimage caravans to KD 10,000, he said that this decision was taken by the Higher Pilgrimage Committee and there is no intention to reduce the amount. He added that insurance will be paid again for owners of caravans on their return if they abide by the regulations.

Kuwaiti rent allowance

THE rent allowance of KD 100 per month allocated to Kuwaiti employees will not be increased at the moment according to the rent allowances controller at Kuwait's National Housing Authority (NHA) Fuad Malallah.

In an interview with a local daily, Malallah said that the authority had previously announced that citizens entitled to rent allowances should communicate with the authority and should bring along the necessary documents clarifying the rent value paid for the months of December 1989, January and February of the instant year in addition to the latest salary certificate to ensure that recipients salaries are still below KD 700.

He added that the authority had decided to extend the closing date of the contract period up to April 19 in order to enable all the relevant citizens to communicate with the authority to receive the allowances over the last three months.

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Ramadan commodities easily available in co-ops

Prices vary in different places

THE secretary of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies Bader Al Jad'an has said that all consumer commodities usually in high demand during the holy month of Ramadan have been made available in large quantities to meet customers requirements.

He told a local daily that of these commodities, Qamer Edeem and Jarash are highly in demand and cold drinks such as Vimento and confectionery come next in the most highly selling

commodities during this month. He said that the union is greatly concerned to ensure that no price jumps will occur during this month beyond the normally acceptable rates, adding that the union main task is to provide all sorts of consumer commodities at reasonable prices.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the board at the Andalus Co-operative Society Bajad Bo Ramya stressed that all sorts of consumer commodities are available in large quantities and

at reasonable prices. He said that there is no intention on the society's part to make price increases. Working hours during Ramadan begin at 7.30 in the morning till 11am and work will be resumed from seven after iftar till midnight, where the night service takes over.

The Keifan supermarket manager Nabil Ismael stressed the supermarket's efforts to ensure the provision of all high-selling Ramadan consumer commodities in adequate quantities

to meet different consumers tastes at moderate prices.

The director of the Central Market at Abdullah Al Salem Ares said that the supermarket has made considerable reductions in the prices of certain commodities, due to large number of suppliers and the possibility to get reduced offers.

He said that the high-selling commodities at the market are the raisins, pineapple, walnut, macaroni and others and that operation hours start at 8 in the

morning till 2 after midnight.

A number of consumers have also been interviewed by the daily who respectively stressed that they faced no difficulty in getting their supplies of the different commodities at reasonable and acceptable prices.

One consumer said that certain commodities are available in sufficient quantities at one society, but are not so abundantly available in others, adding that the prices also varied from society to another.

Action Line

I WOULD like to know if we are allowed to install a cordless phone at home. I've heard that they have been banned but also came to know that the ban has been lifted. If we are allowed to install them, do we have to obtain permission and in case it's not allowed, then what are the charges against using one.

Victor Abraham

SAMI AL AMER, director of frequency and wireless licences department at the Ministry of Communication, said that wireless devices with powerful transmission such as equipment which can transmit messages to neighbouring countries are banned in Kuwait. Violators are punished, according to the law. The ministry, he said, has monitoring stations which record any such violation.

Amer said the cordless home phones are allowed for use in Kuwait, provided the frequency of such phones does not exceed 300 mw. To install them, an approval from the Ministry of Communications must be obtained; the ministry checks the equipment to ensure that their frequencies are not more than the maximum limit allowed.

I AM residing in Kuwait's Andalus suburb. My employer told me not to change my postal address, which is in Rumaithiya. For the last eight years, I have been getting letters. Now, suddenly, the Rumaithiya post office is returning to the sender all letters addressed to me. My "mama" has made arrangements to have my letters collected from the previous address. I don't know why my letters are going back.

Marta D. Bautista

LETTERS are sent back only if the addressee is not available on a certain address. As you don't stay in Rumaithiya, probably the new people in the house are returning your mail. It would be better to check with them before taking up the matter with the post office, which we suggest must be done in person.

I WOULD like to know the procedure regarding the transfer of registration of a vehicle under the name of an owner who is now not in Kuwait and has no intention of coming back. The previous owner went on vacation and due to some personal problems, he could not return. He has resigned from his post. I made a verbal agreement over the phone to buy his car and the payment will be made on registration of the vehicle on my name.

Please advise what documents are required to do the needful.

J. Fernandez

CONTACT the owner of the car and ask him to send a power of attorney to transfer his car in your name. And this document should be stamped by the Embassy of Kuwait in his country for authentication. After the document comes here, it must be authenticated by the authorities in Kuwait as well. You can present the power of attorney to the traffic department, and they will do the needful to transfer the vehicle in your name.

There is another procedure, which is rather prolonged, and requires you to file a case against the owner of the car and get a judgement in your favour saying that the car was bought by you. In this instance, you have to prove through eye-witness testimony the verbal agreement made between you and the owner.

I AM a domestic helper. I want to know if an employee doesn't want your service, or an employer doesn't pay our salary, can I ask him to send me back to my country? If he suggests I seek a transfer of residence, can I refuse? If a domestic helper is deported, what is the procedure for coming back?

Jester

ANY domestic helper, or any employee, who wants to work anywhere will first ask about the salary and working conditions; if he doesn't, he should.

When an employee accepts a job, he or she should know about the working conditions and the salary he can expect from his employer. If you knew the conditions and the terms of the contract, you don't have the right to refuse work.

If you have not completed the contract, it is up to the employer whether they want to deduct all the expenses they paid to bring you to the country. Legally, and contractwise, it is not right to leave the employer in mid-term. It is advisable to settle the matter amicably and finalise the matter kindly. A domestic helper is not covered by the labour law. The only way is to settle the matter amicably. Or you would have to file a case in the court.

If any expatriate is deported from Kuwait, he or she must get a pardon from the Minister of Interior to re-enter Kuwait. If a pardon is granted, then he can re-enter on a re-entry visa.

If you have a problem, drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

Use recognised shipping lines, importers warned

By Ahmad Ayash

SOURCES of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that about 1000 tons of the total consignments on board the "Barns" that was seized for five months at Bombay Port belong to Kuwaiti importers. They added that these importers will bear additional costs of freight because their goods were transferred to another ship called "Khuzam-3."

Meanwhile, a member of board of United Arab Shipping Company Shaker Al Sanai said that such acts of seizing ships will lead to the increase in dependence of importers on ships of UASC or international shipping companies that are owned by marine transportation unions that are recognised by the world.

The head of legal department at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce Essam Al Samman said that ship "Khuzam-3" carrying the Barns' re-shipment also loaded other goods at Dubai port and will arrive in Kuwait within com-

ing few days. He said that goods loaded for Kuwaiti importers and merchants on the ship are 1,000 tons of foodstuffs and construction materials.

The ship Barns that was hired by the British Shipping Company-Thames carried different goods for 53 merchants in the world including 17 Kuwaiti merchants and importers from Brazil to Gulf ports. But the ship was seized for five months because Thames was about to be bankrupt.

The shipping company is so much in debt that creditor banks were obliged to seize the ship in Bombay. These banks will pay 50 per cent of the additional freight charges while Kuwaiti and other importers will pay the second half.

Sania from UASC called on importers to use recognised shipping lines to avoid such problems. He added that operations of these lines are secured although their prices are little more than other lines.

Moroccan, Italian travellers in Kuwait

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

WITH Iran rather inhospitable to foreign adventurers Kuwait is increasingly becoming a crossing point for travellers seeking to set new records while traversing continents on foot, camelback, by plane, bike or motorcycle.

Two such groups, Moroccan and Italian, converged on the Gulf state last week. At first sight they had little but wonderlust in common. But as they compared notes in a lively conversation after a chance meeting it was obvious that they shared much more than a desire for adventure. Both groups spoke of an ideal: a world without boundaries, wars and violence. They were eager to learn about cultures other than their own and pass on their experience through movies and books they plan to produce about their adventure. And yes, they hope to make an entry into record books. The six Italians travelling on motorbikes from Rome to Peking claim they are the first to undertake the 22,000 km journey. The two Moroccans from Casablanca, who are following in the footsteps of Ibn Battuta, an 18th century scholar, hope to be the first Arabs after their renowned countryman to reach China on foot.

But Bouib Ahmed Fouad, 27, and 29-year-old Moustapha Mostafa hope to go further, to Spain, via Australia, Latin and North America. They plan to walk into Barcelona, from the nearby airport (they have to fly over the Atlantic), in the summer of 1992 in the time for the Olympics.

By the time the Moroccans reach the subcontinent the Italians will hopefully have their adventure wrapped up. The group, led by Roberto Ceccarelli, left their home town Rome on March 11 plans to get to Peking on May 31. The six men, all motorcycle buffs, took one year to prepare for the trip. They are backed by the Italian National Olympic Committee, the Italian Motorcyclist Federation and a host of sponsors, whose contribution will cover 30 per cent of the entire cost of the trip. The boys hope that the rest that comes from their savings will be compensated by the sales of the documentary they are filming along the trip and the book they plan to produce at the end of the trip.

Fouad and Mostafa also plan to write about their trip. But it won't be a traveller's guide or a simple record of an adventure. It will be a study of different customs and social practices, says Fouad a computer programmer. Both experienced travellers, the Moroccans set out on their journey to spread their message of peace and friendship. They say the idea was born as they learnt of the innocent people's suffering in war-torn countries such as Lebanon, El Salvador and South Africa.

The pair who left the Atlantic port of Casablanca on Feb 7th have walked much of the North Africa, at times more than 30 km a day. The effort was not over-taxing for either, as Fouad is a footballer and Mostafa an athlete. But they also hitch-hiked and took a bus when the land they were crossing was particularly inhospitable such as the 1,067 km stretch of the Sahara desert between Benghazi and Tripoli in Libya.

Although not backed by an official organisation the Moroccans have received help from new acquaintances, Moroccans expatriates and media. When they run out of money they work as shop assistants, waiters or take whatever jobs are available.

Waiting

With Saudi Arabia not too far both teams had to take a break in Kuwait. The Italians loaded their high performance Astra motorcycles on a boat to Abu Dhabi and they followed by plane. This is not cheating but out of necessity, they say. The Moroccans remain in Kuwait to wait for a visa to Saudi Arabia.

From the Gulf the route is the same for both teams, from Oman to Karachi, Pakistan by boat and then through India to China by road.

The Italians were quite pleased to see Kuwait, for the Kuwaitis, whether they know it or not, are in fact helping finance the adventure. Among the group's sponsors is the Italian Mobil which was recently bought by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Summing up the spirit of their adventure, and that of the Moroccans, Roberto says: "We are friends to all the world." And even if that world has not always been a friend to them they will be happy if by the time they complete their journey someone somewhere along their route has got their message."

Quarantine facility at airport complete: Sultan

WHO films anti-brucellosis campaign

THE deputy director-general of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture, Affairs and Fish Resources Dr Sultan Ahmed Sultan was quoted as saying the veterinary quarantine project at Kuwait International Airport has been completed.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the setting up of such a quarantine aims at enabling veterinary authorities to arrange for necessary medical tests on all animals and birds which may arrive in the country by air.

He added that all the incoming animals and birds will be subject to the necessary quarantine, irrespective of whether these animals or birds have arrived accompanied by owners or through separate airfreight.

He added that the quarantine period could be defined by the relevant veterinary authority and in the light of the health situation of the relevant countries and in the light of the health certificate which should be brought along with the incoming animals and birds.

He added that the quality of the veterinary care in each country will define the quarantine period and further added that the animals or birds who arrive in the country without health certificates will be subject to a longer

period at the quarantine.

He confirmed the co-ordination existing between the veterinary authorities and authorities concerned at Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) as well as the Customs Department to make sure that all the incoming animals and birds should be passed on to the veterinary quarantine to ensure that these animals and birds are free of any virus that may cause infectious diseases. Dr Sultan also said that a special film has of late been prepared to demonstrate ways to combat the common cattle disease known as brucellosis, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation.

Speaking to Kuna, he said that Kuwait was selected by WHO to shoot this film, in appreciation of Kuwait's consistent efforts in fighting brucellosis during the years from 1987 to 1989 and the vaccination of cows against this disease in 1985.

This film is to be used in the field of education and guidance to demonstrate the danger of how the disease-causing virus could pass from sick animals to human beings and how to prevent this process.

He added that Kuwait managed to reduce the number of cases in

humans and also in animals, such as sheep, goat and cows, pointing out that the percentage of contracting the disease dropped in cows from 9.7 in 1986 to 4.6 per cent in 1989, and in sheep and goats from 11 to 6.6 per cent in 1989.

The specialists assigned to shoot the film stayed in the country for ten years and took snapshots of flocks of sheep, goats and camels in the Kuwaiti desert, in Kabab, Abdali, Manqash and other areas.

The film also contains scenes of an aborigine goat and instances of immunising animals in the area of Hamadiyat and also scenes on how to deal with dairy animals, Sultan said.

He added that the film also demonstrated ways to examine sick animals by skin tests and lab tests to reveal the disease causing agent. A series of scenes were taken at the Central Slaughterhouse to demonstrate ways to segregate sick animals whose diseases were contractible by humans, such as brucellosis.

The specialists assigned to make the film carried out interviews with veteran vets at different labs in the country, adding that these efforts led to a considerable reduction in the number of cases registered, Sultan said.

Privatisation of mobile phone service approved

THE Council of Ministers has approved a request by the Ministry of Communications to give up control of the mobile telephone service and related systems to a new private company to be set up by the ministry. Sources close to the Council of Ministers said the council decided to form a committee under the chairmanship of the minister of communications and memberships of the Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Finance and Information to study the executive steps of transferring control of Mobile Telephone service and systems to the proposed private company and the establishment of the company.

The ministry has reportedly requested the council to approve the establishment of a new company to manage and operate its mobile service systems, due to the continued financial and administrative problems borne by the ministry as a result of controlling this service.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the Ministry of Communications has revealed the ministry's intention to introduce a new telephone service, which will enable subscribers to dial a certain number and learn all information about their lines, due payments and other relevant matters.

The official said that this service will contribute to the ministry's constant efforts to develop work performance and optimise its subscriber services, and will also help subscribers avoid having their lines disconnected for failure to pay over-due bills.

Investments

The legislative committee as the Council of Ministers yesterday held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed during which it endorsed a number of official protocols relating to agreements concluded by Kuwait with different Arab and European countries to protect and encourage investments in these countries.

Rashed said the committee revealed that two agreements would be signed with France and Hungary involving the promotion of investments between Kuwait and these countries.

He added that the committee agreed to the agreement proposed for signing between Kuwait and China to promote economic and technical co-operation, and a third agreement to be signed with Egypt on the exchange of prisoners to complete serving their terms in their respective countries.

14 females trapped in elevator rescued

PANDEMOMIUM reigned and near tragedy was averted with the timely arrival of the fire-brigade personnel to rescue 14 female students from the Medical College in Jabiya who had been trapped in the elevator of the college for two hours and 30 minutes.

The incident began when the General Fire Fighting Department and Jabiya Police Station received a report stating that 14 female students at the college were locked in the college elevator. Sources said that one of the female students was in the fourth month of her pregnancy, several females in the stalled lift lost consciousness and others were screaming in desperation.

A local daily stated that firemen came to the rescue in the nick of time as the excessive weight threatened to snap the elevator wires.

Crime file

Jewel thief arrested

CAPITAL securitymen arrested Mahmoud A. Jordanian, for stealing jewels from a house in Dahiyah Abdulla Al Salem estimated to cost over KD 6,000. The accused guided the police to his friend, Salahuddin M. Jordanian, where he had hidden the jewellery with him. The two accused were referred to concerned authorities for further investigations.

AHMADI securitymen arrested Kamal N. and Surachai F., both Thais on the charge of selling locally made liquor. The two men were caught red handed and the instruments they used to manufacture liquor were seized.

CAPITAL securitymen arrested Adel A., non-Kuwaiti and Faisal A. Kuwaiti, while trying to force open two cars and steal valuable. The cars were parked at a hospital parking. The securitymen caught the two men red handed and seized the metal wire they used to open the cars. During investigation, the two confessed carrying out several other thefts in various areas in the country.

Customs stores

KUWAIT, March 30. (Kuna): Director-General of the Public Authority for Customs Ibrahim Al Ghaniim today stressed the importance of a plan to establish public customs storages in a preparatory step for a customs free zone in the future.

In a press conference on recent customs regulation amendments Ghaniim said the plan will be executed this year and that a private company will manage it and that the government will partly finance costs.

He anticipated great success for the idea saying Kuwait's strategic location was sure to lure transit trade.

Defence delegation

A DELEGATION from the Ministry of Defence visited the Communications and Aviation Centre at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

On arrival, the delegation was received by the centre director, Jasem Al Zanki and the Administrative and Financial Undersecretary Bader Al Farhan.

The delegation visited number of sections at the centre including workshops and different technical laboratories. They also took a look at the scientific capabilities at the Centre and a number of training sections.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

SELF conquest is the greatest of victories — Plato. Greek philosopher (about 427 BC - 347 BC)

N-programme advanced

Iraq stirs a hornets' nest

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP): Iraq's apparent attempt to acquire triggering devices for nuclear weapons underlines its long-time efforts to challenge Israel's military dominance in the Middle East.

The alleged smuggling attempt, foiled Wednesday in London, also raised fears among some officials and analysts that a new arms race was under way in the volatile region.

On Wednesday, US and Israeli officials reiterated their past warnings about the spectre of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. But most analysts believe Iraq is still years away from actually producing a nuclear weapon.

Triggers

Still, Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear triggers, coupled with its development of long-range missiles and chemical weapons, has raised concerns that its nuclear programme may be more advanced than anyone thought.

The arrest of three people in London on Wednesday for allegedly trying to smuggle US-made triggers known as krytons to Iraq was the latest in a chain of indicators that Iraq is capable of developing high-technology weapons.

Last December, Iraq launched a rocket it said could be used to put a satellite into space orbit. It also claims to have developed missiles with a range of 750 miles (1,200 kilometres).

In December, US officials confirmed the launch "of a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit."

But Western intelligence sources said the launch was less successful than at first believed. They said the rocket only flew for just over two minutes, reaching an altitude of 12-12 miles (20 kilometres) before plunging back to earth.

Nonetheless, some analysts believed that it put Iraq on the threshold of ballistic missile capability.

Richard Murphy, former US assistant secretary of state and a Middle East expert, told a conference on Iraq in London earlier this month that Iraq's missile programme has made "extraordinary progress."

"This progress generally carries an ominous overtone and not just in the United States," he said. "Its genuine scientific achievements are clouded by associated reports of Iraqi progress in chemical weapons and biological warfare research."

Iraq has achieved this despite the efforts of the United States and the six industrialized nations to halt the proliferation of missiles by cutting off the flow of sensitive technology to Third World countries.

Restrict

Attempts to restrict access to missile technology have been undercut by the emergence of sophisticated arms industries in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

China has supplied missiles in the past to Iran and Iraq, but says it has stopped doing so.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1492 — Jews in Spain are given three months to accept Christianity or to leave.

1496 — Pope Alexander VI forms Holy League with Holy Roman Empire, Spain, Venice and Milan, ostensibly to fight Turks but aimed at expelling Charles VIII of France from Italy.

1683 — Poland forms alliance with Holy Roman Empire against Turks.

1854 — US Commodore Perry makes first treaty with Japan, opening two Japanese ports to trade with outside world.

1877 — Bartle Frere is named British high commissioner to South Africa with instructions to work toward federation.

1889 — Eiffel Tower is opened in Paris.

1905 — German Kaiser William II's visit to Tangier sets off first Moroccan crisis.

1913 — Turkey accepts recommendations of great powers for peace with Bulgaria.

1936 — Britain and France pledged to support Poland if it is invaded.

1941 — Germans launch counter-offensive in North Africa in World War II.

1942 — Japan's successes in Burma and Andaman Islands threaten India's west coast during World War II.

1948 — US Congress passes Marshall aid pact for European recovery.

1955 — Chinese Communist Party begins purge.

1966 — Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's Nationalist Party wins greatest election victory in South Africa's history.

1987 — About 800 leftist guerrillas kill 43 soldiers and US military adviser in attack on major army base in El Salvador.

1989 — Turkey's Premier Turgut Ozal overhauls his cabinet, dismissing his brother and cousin and 10 other ministers.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Kohl committed to Nato membership

CDU victory plus for Bush

WASHINGTON: After the stunning victory of the Alliance for Germany, backed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in the East German elections, the Bush administration is much relieved because the chancellor remains firmly committed to membership in Nato. If the Social Democrats had won, as almost everybody expected, Germany's role in Nato might have undergone some changes.

The future relationship between Nato and a unified Germany is what State Department officials consider the most important aspect of American policy in Europe. One of the reasons is that German public opinion, according to the latest polls, would prefer German neutrality, another being that the Soviet Union currently objects to a united Germany remaining in Nato.

American officials are confident that Kohl will want a united Germany to remain a full member of Nato and were reassured when told that at their last Warsaw Pact meeting earlier this month in Prague the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and Romanians all voted in favour of continued German membership in Nato.

The Russians, on the other hand, said they are against a united Germany remaining in Nato. The trouble with their position is that they are in a dilemma about Germany's future role in Europe. They are not in favour of German neutrality or a kind of free-floating role between the blocs, but they have not clearly formulated alternative.

The Bush administration is ready to accept united Germany's membership in Nato with its East German part demilitarized, but not, for instance, the proposal advanced by Oskar LaFontaine, the leader of the Social Democrats, that Germany like France remain outside the Nato command.

In view of the obvious dilemma on the part of the Soviets, it would seem that Gorbachev has yet to decide on what longer range policy to adopt toward Germany. But with neutrality excluded, with the Warsaw Pact disintegrating and the idea of Germany belonging to both pacts making no sense, hopes are high here that Gorbachev will ultimately agree to Germany being tied to Nato as one of the safest alternatives, one that would ensure that Germany could not throw its weight around or threaten anybody.

Mideast

American officials dealing with Middle Eastern affairs do not expect any early breakthrough either in the deadlocked internal political situation in Israel or in the peace process, but they are more hopeful of gradual progress.

Western officials consider the amount it spends on defence to be totally out of proportion to that necessary to meet any threat of renewed hostilities with Iran.

Arsenal

"Instead, they foresee that by the end of the decade Iraq will have the largest arsenal in the region of unconventional weapons — principally medium-range missiles with sophisticated warheads, including chemical and nuclear weapons."

Last December, Mideast Markets reported that Iraq was trying to build a nuclear bomb with Chinese help.

The newsletter said the Chinese have provided Baghdad with components for high-speed centrifuges that produce the highly enriched uranium needed for nuclear weapons.

But it is estimated that it could be 10 years before Iraq would be capable of testing such a weapon. Israeli officials have said Iraq is probably much closer than that.

Israeli warplanes bombed a French-built nuclear reactor near Baghdad in June 1981, charging that the Iraqis were developing nuclear weapons.

Some analysts believe that Baghdad's efforts to get its hands on nuclear triggers indicates it is well down the road to nuclear weapons capability.

But Don Kerr, a military specialist with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said in a telephone interview that he believed Iraq's nuclear programme is still in the theoretical stage because of the problems of getting hold of weapons-grade material."

He said Iraq's apparent attempt to acquire nuclear triggers was "an attempt to take a short cut through the design and development process."

Mine warfare sowing fear in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, (AP): The teenager massaged her bandaged stump, waiting for a crude artificial leg of wood, leather and steel to replace the one severed by a mine as she walked with friends in the countryside last December.

"I feel lost now," she says softly. "I don't know about the future."

Moeun Mali, a lovely 19-year-old high school girl, is one of thousands of Cambodians maimed by an array of anti-personnel mines being sown in ever greater numbers, mostly by the three guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-backed government of prime minister Hun Sen.

But all warring sides use large quantities of these weapons, and seldom remove them when retreating or relocating.

Cambodian government officials claim that most of the mines are set by the Khmer Rouge, with smaller numbers planted by infiltrating guerrillas of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front and followers of resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Although most of the fighting is in the northwest, along the border with Thailand, officials and Western aid workers say mines are being planted in roads, ox-cart trails, stream beds and rice fields throughout the country.

"In many respects this is a war being fought with land mines against civilians — and I don't think anybody is keeping records of where they are being laid," said Brett Ballard of the American Friends Service Committee.

Aid workers described half a dozen types of mines, including a Chinese-made, blue plastic weapon that is often seeded in flooded rice paddies. It floats just beneath the water's surface, and is easily detonated. China is the main arms supplier to the Khmer Rouge.

The plastic shards are difficult to detect by X-ray when embedded in a human body.

The mine is light and thus easily transportable from guerrilla sanctuaries along the Thai-Cambodian frontiers. The guerrillas appear to employ the mines to cordon off hideouts and arms caches.

Sabotage

The guerrillas' aims, officials say, are to sabotage the economy, disrupt community life and demonstrate to the population that the government cannot protect them.

But some say the most telling impact of the mine warfare is psychological, keeping people on the edge of fear after 20 years of war and a reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge.

"It also seems to have the effect of reminding people of the horror experienced under (Khmer Rouge leader) Pol Pot and in many ways strengthens resolve against the Khmer Rouge," Ballard, who is based in Phnom Penh, said in an interview. "People can see very clearly that the Khmer Rouge have not changed."

At least 1 million people were killed or died of starvation or disease under Pol Pot's draconian Khmer Rouge rule from April 1975 until the Vietnamese invasion in December 1978.

Conservative estimates put the number of amputees in Cambodia, most of them mine victims, at more than 10,000. Many are killed outright or die on the way to hospitals, which can be several days travel from remote villages.

Refugee camps and hospitals on the Thai side of the border also receive a constant stream of victims. Ex-soldiers with missing limbs beg in the streets of

Phnom Penh.

Attempting to cope with the mounting toll are 12 provincial centres and one in Phnom Penh run by the government and aided since 1982 by the AFSC, which has its headquarters in Philadelphia.

Other foreign agencies are setting up vocational training for amputees and otherwise trying to shore up weak government institutions for the handicapped.

As in Vietnam and Laos, where people are still being maimed by wartime mines, the aid agencies focus on mine injuries occurring years after the conflict in Cambodia finally ends.

To date, more than 1,800 civilians and soldiers have passed through the Phnom Penh centre to be fitted with locally built artificial legs and undergo rehabilitation. Artificial arms must come from abroad.

The leg fashioned at the centre is ugly, but relatively easy to make from available resources. It is a sturdy prosthetic device which requires little maintenance, designed for farmers working the rice paddies.

One was being made in the workshop for Moeun Mali, who lost her right leg. Her father, a farmer, was killed earlier by the Khmer Rouge. She brought her books to the centre, "hoping to finish high school and become a nurse one day."

"Someone like her has a bleak future in Cambodia," said a Western aid official after the interview. "Nobody will marry her and society offers little. There is still a cultural belief that if you have lost a limb you are less than whole. You are a second-class citizen."

Romanians bask in freedom

BUCHAREST, Romania, (AP): Nearly four months after the Romanian revolution, candles burn at memorials across Bucharest to the hundreds who died. But there is a new buzz in the city from people openly talking politics for the first time in nearly 45 years.

The downfall of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has changed the lives of Romanians in large and small ways. Now there is some heat at night, more food, passports to travel the right to demonstrate.

Crowds line up, sometimes for hours, to buy newspapers which they now say contain real news for the first time since World War II.

Cinema marquees tout French and American movies. Hundreds of people crowd around a never-before-seen video being shown on a screen in a window on Nicolae Bălcescu Boulevard.

Romanians joke about talking openly to foreigners, a crime under Ceausescu. Thousands have demonstrated for the first time and at every protest, knots of people stand for hours discussing politics. As one diplomat quipped, "Romanians are making up for 45 years of saying nothing."

Apartment

Several thousand people waited in line for up to nine hours to register to buy an apartment at the "Enterprise for Building and Selling Apartments," an opportunity unheard of under Ceausescu.

"I never thought I could own property," said Magda Andronice, a 30-year-old electronics engineer who was hoping to buy a two-room apartment for 149,000 lei (\$8,000).

But for many like Dr Dan Catana, a 36-year-old paediatrician, the joy at being free is tinged with sadness over the heavy price. As he spoke, his eyes darted from the balcony of the Communist Party Central Committee headquarters, where Ceausescu fled Bucharest, to the candles and flowers on the pavement below, burning for those who died in the revolution.

Ceausescu on this balcony said thousands and thousands of times that communism makes people happy," he said, shaking his head. Then he paused, watching an elderly lady light a candle.

"This is our happiness — a very tragic happiness," he said slowly, as the candle's flame danced alongside half a dozen others at the spot where several revolutionaries fell.

"People are free but not completely. We are, I think, at the middle of the way to democracy. But I'm not worried because I'm very convinced communism cannot come back," he said.

Catana clutched the hand of his 9-year-old daughter and pointed up to the sign on top of the building. It once said "Long live socialist Romania" but the word "socialist" had been ripped out.

Changes

The paediatrician said he was taking his daughter to all the sights of the revolution so she could understand the immense changes going on in Romania.

"My daughter learned that Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu were the mother and father of the country. Now these people have gone from being the parents of the nation to the killers of the nation," he said. "Our history must be changed since the war."

At the square, Catana showed his daughter the shell-pocked, and "burnt-out" buildings, some now surrounded by scaffolding, the art museum, the national library, and a blackened building once used by Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police who fought against the army and the people even after the dictator's execution.

At the television station, the most hotly contested building during the revolution, about a mile (1.6 kilometres) away, tanks still stand guard.

The surrounding area is studded with bullet-ridden apartment buildings, where Securitate snipers holed up. Only a few showed signs of rebuilding.

Boris Aurel Cosina, a 41-year-old engineer, said the biggest change since the revolution was psychological, the lifting of "the darkness" that communism brought to everyday life.

"We're not thinking immediately of having mountains of products and food," he said. "We're just thinking, we're free."

Kiosks now sell chocolate bars, which disappeared from shops in the last years of Ceausescu's rule, but meat and milk are still luxuries.

Prices

Electricity prices have gone down and there is even hot water for an hour or two a day. But shops and homes are still cold and badly lit, and shoppers must trudge up and down department store escalators that have been turned off.

At Hanul Manuc, originally a caravanserai and now one of Bucharest's most famous establishments, there was no menu in the restaurant — because just one dish was available. Most diners ate with their hats and coats on, to keep warm.

More than a half hour after an order was placed for the main course of fried cheese balls, fried pork and fatty sausage, the waiter came to apologize. "It will be another 10 minutes, but we have a gas shortage and it takes longer to cook," he said.

The revolution has also spawned some less-than-desirable breeds of Western street life. Money changers, beggars, and prostitutes. One of their favourite haunts is the Intercontinental Hotel, where the words "down with communism" are scrawled on a wall in large red letters.

The hotel is across the street from the University of Bucharest, scene of heavy fighting during the revolution. One of the many memorials there, on an island in the middle of the street, lists the names of 117 people from the age of 17 to 58 who died there on Dec. 22-23, the vast majority in their 20s.

QUOTE ME

 "I'm shocked over what happened, and we're upset as well. I'm more in shock though, about how people look themselves manipulated." Buster Douglas, after being jeered by members of a Colorado Ohio audience as slighting local blacks.

"The consequence of reunification is that it is necessary for Germany to respect the frontiers in Europe. Germany must also commit itself in a precise fashion to European political and economic unity. There are no guarantees between us. There are differences of approach, not over reunification, but over its consequences." — French President François Mitterrand.

"He's the only man who has nothing to win and if he wins, everybody will say, 'he's a winner.' Jack Nicklaus. He's supposed to win. If he doesn't win, everybody will ask, 'what's wrong?'" — pro golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez.



Marine environment

Coral disappearing at alarming rate

By Jon Miller

PALAWAN ISLAND, The Philippines (WNL): "You see those huts?" asks Norman Songco, pointing at a bare spot on the shoreline as the wooden boat chugs out into Puerto Princesa Bay. "They set up a sort of picnic area. The first thing they did was cut down all the mangrove trees. They thought they'd have a beach — what they got was a mud flat."

In itself, the tiny picnic area is not a major problem — 20 metres (65 feet) of blighted coastline and a hurried stretch of coral reef — hut to Songco it illustrates a point. You can't expect to cash in on the environment, he says, unless you are willing to do what it takes to preserve it.

Songco, a 39-year-old former engineer, makes his living guiding tourists to the coral reefs off the coast of this mountainous, sparsely populated island. Since they were "discovered" by divers a few years ago, those reefs have offered some of the most varied and colourful underwater scenery in the world.

But that, like so much here on the Philippines' rugged last frontier, is changing fast.

Palawan's extensive coral reefs, still pristine by the standards of the rest of the Philippines, are in trouble. Rapid growth, poverty, corruption and simple ignorance have conspired against a fragile living environment that takes years to build and seconds to destroy.

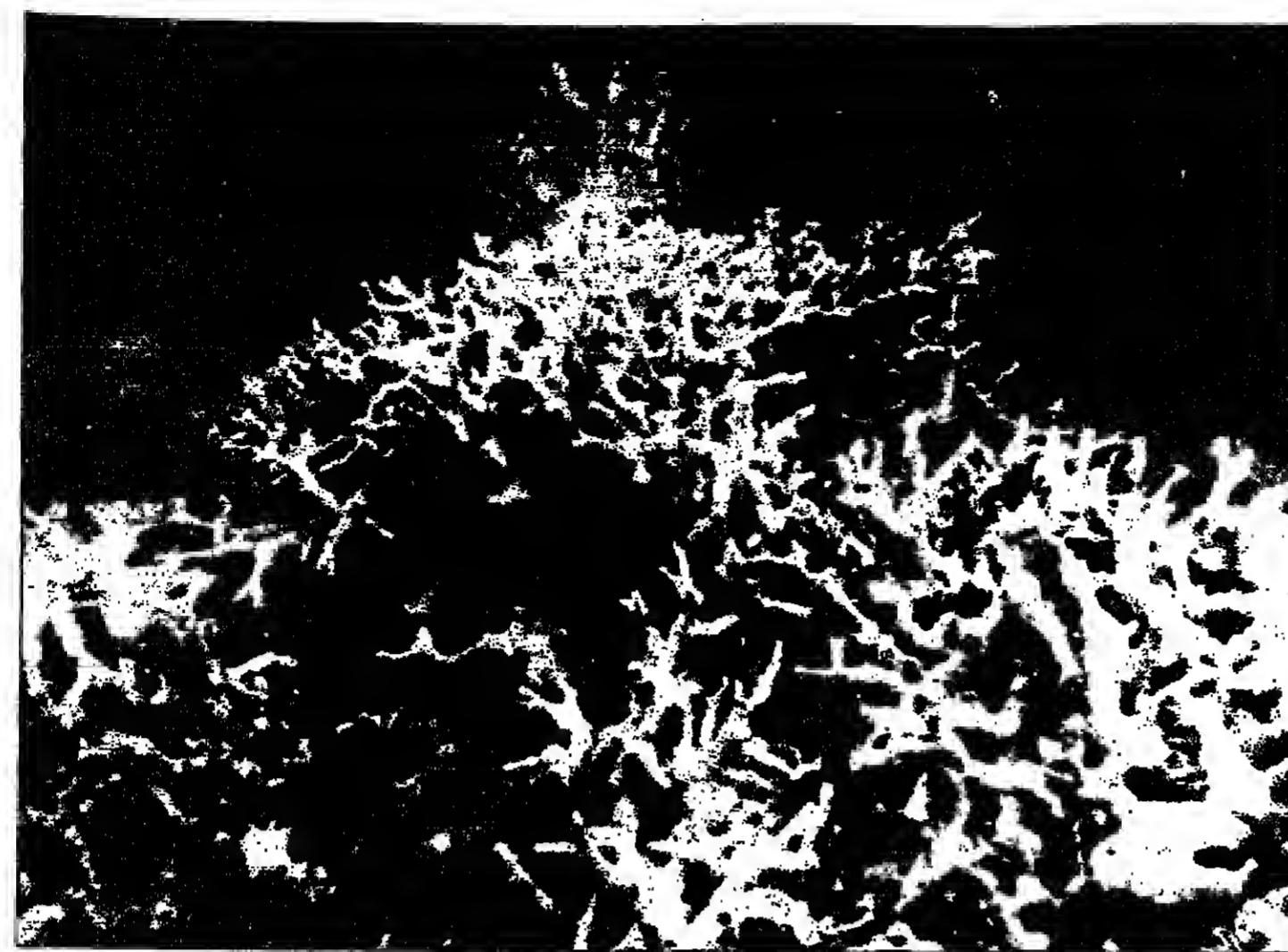
Throughout the Philippines, and throughout the tropical oceans of the world, corals are disappearing at an alarming rate. Commercial fishing with explosives or cyanide — or with a harharric method called "muro-ami" cause the most dramatic damage. Mine tailing and industrial pollution pose serious problems in many coastal areas as well, and siltation from poorly planned logging and agriculture can have a lasting and devastating effect.

Opponents

So far, scuba divers have been the most vocal opponents of the destruction of the Philippine reefs. Songco, for example, has become active in a local environmental group and has begun to document the damage he sees on his dives. Other divers have banded together to try to persuade the government to designate prime diving spots as marine parks.

But the crisis on the reefs is not just a divers' problem.

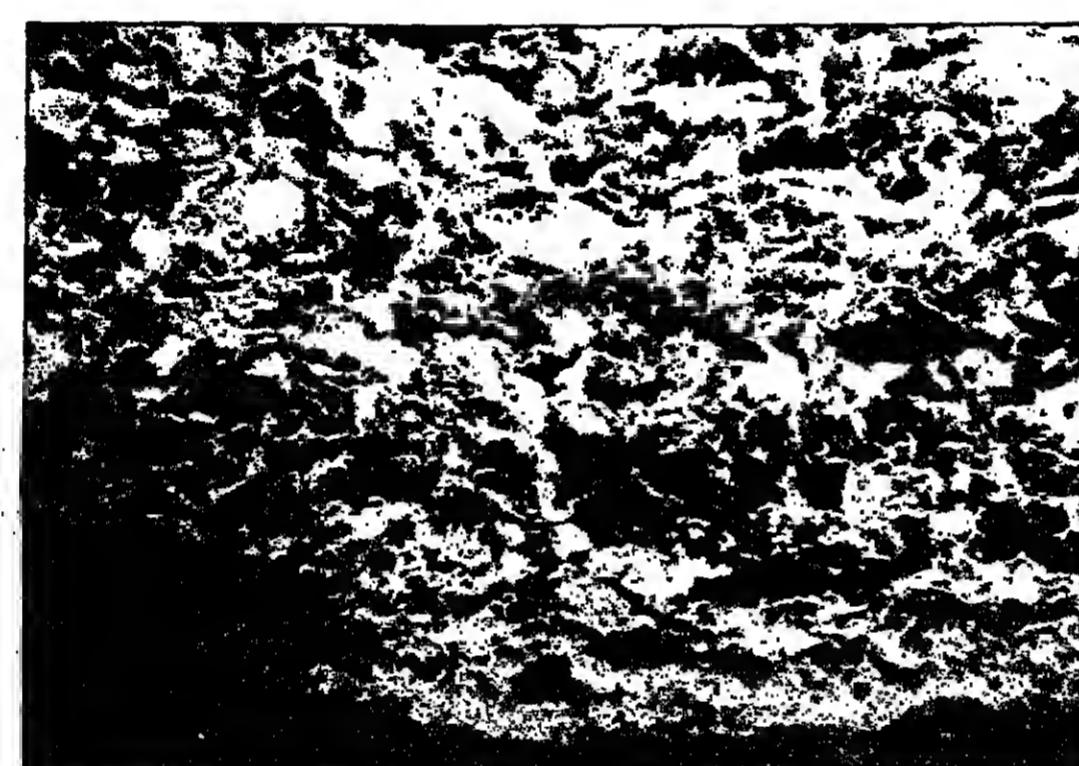
Delicate reef ecosystems provide



A healthy coral reef, one of few left in the Philippines to provide top fisheries and a paradise for scuba divers (WNL)

food and livelihood for millions of marginal fishermen and their families. Researchers at the University of the Philippines estimate that coral reefs provide as much as 25 per cent of the total catch of fish eaten in this island country. But if trends continue, there is no way that level can be sustained. Scientists say that about 70 per cent of the country's reefs are at best in "poor to fair" condition and that as many as 40 per cent can be considered destroyed.

"The biggest problem is sim-



A coral reef devastated by dynamite fishing near Palawan Island. Pollution is also taking its toll, and it is estimated that 40 per cent of the reefs in the Philippines have been destroyed (WNL)

ply population growth," says Bill Staub, an Asian Development Bank official who has been active in the fight to save Palawan's Tubbataha Reef. Staub has watched Tubbataha — a remote preserve of 33,500 hectares (about 83,000 acres) with as much biological diversity as Australia's Great Barrier Reef — fall prey to an onslaught of "invaders" from islands whose reefs have already been ravaged.

Advantage

Many of those invaders are poor fishermen looking for better catches, but some of the most threatening are large commercial enterprises. And although a good number are from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan, most are from the Philippines. In recent months a well-financed Filipino seaweed-farming company has taken advantage of the government's lax enforcement efforts and has set up illegal operations on a particularly sensitive section of Tubbataha.

"It's a shame," laments Roland Rodriguez, a Palawan native and director of the island's environmental planning office. Rodriguez points out that migrants from other parts of the country are putting a strain on all of Palawan's resources and marine resources are no exception.

Like many of the slash-and-burn farmers who have ruined the island's upland forests, most of the people fishing in Palawan's waters have come from the overcrowded Visayas islands of the central Philippines. "They

have destroyed the coral reefs in their own places," Rodriguez says, "and now they're coming here." The results have been disastrous. On Tubbataha Reef, 150 kilometres (93 miles) out to sea, fishermen report a catch that is one third of what it was six years ago.

Staub notes that poor fishermen throughout the country are beginning to recognise the need to preserve their fishing grounds, and in some areas they have begun to organise patrols to monitor destructive and illegal fishing. But although Palawan fishermen claim that it is

mostly outsiders who causes the damage, they admit that it is difficult to resist using environmentally destructive methods or to stand up to others who do so.

"In a lot of communities, people look at dynamite fishing the same way that urbanites look at jaywalking," Staub explains.

"It's the sort of situation where if you play by the rules you lose, because so many people aren't playing by the rules."

Of all the fishing methods that destroy reefs, "muro-ami" is the most deadly. The technique was brought to the Philippines by Japanese fishermen around World War II and has recently grown more popular. In larger muro-ami operations, hundreds of young men and boys surround a boat, carrying long "scare lines" or ropes with weights attached. The boys swim along with the boat, banging the weights on the ocean floor and driving fish into large nets. It is extremely dangerous for the boys, who are sometimes required to dive without air tanks to depths as great as 30 metres (almost 100 feet), and the weights do tremendous damage to the corals.

Business

But in the Philippines muro-ami is big business, and big business is politics. Despite a temporary ban on the practice, it has been widely reported that at least one influential politician with a financial interest in muro-ami fisheries has subverted law-enforcement efforts.

Even for the casual snorkeler, it's not difficult to locate the effects of pollution, siltation, explosives, poisons and muro-ami. Although the surface of the water may be calm, many places on the floor of Puerto Princesa Bay look like minefields. Here and there a stunning clump of coloured coral will rise out of a wasteland of pale, broken coral branches. Where blasting has occurred, it is easy to see where the charge was dropped, and where there has been runoff from nearby hills, suffocated corals are easily seen.

Yet Palawan's reefs are, by all accounts, in better condition than those almost everywhere else in this country of about 7,000 islands.

Dr Porfirio Alino, a marine biologist at the College of Fisheries, reports that he routinely hears blasting during his research dives in the northern Philippines — as many as six explosions per hour. Alino has also studied the effects of mine tailings on corals. Off Cebu Island, Atlas Mining, a copper-mining company, dumps 110,000 tons of waste material per day which ends up covering corals and destroying the reefs without any hope of recovery.

Songco has been directly affected by the destruction. He moved to Palawan seven years ago, after the diving spots that he had frequented in the northern Philippines had been destroyed by dynamite fishing. They were favourite destinations for international divers.

He knows that fishing is more important to the country than scuba diving, but he, like other environmentalists, thinks that it is possible to live with the sea in a way that makes sense in the long term. "I'm not saying don't touch it," he says, looking out over the turquoise waters of Puerto Princesa Bay. "I'm saying, think about it, care for it, and use it right."

'Dope fiends' get help behind bars

By Gary Rosenberger

WILTON, New York, (UPI): Long before it was a prison, Mt McGregor had a reputation as a place of healing.

Mt McGregor, nestled on a wooded hilltop between the Adirondack Mountains and the Lake Champlain Valley, will soon be the nation's first large-scale treatment facility devoted solely to inmates whose crimes were prompted by an addiction to drugs or alcohol.

There are now 192 inmates in the alcohol and substance abuse treatment programme at McGregor, where barbed wire fences wind around log cabins and stylish buildings reflect their role early this century as a tuberculosis sanitarium for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. employees.

It is a testament to the success of the voluntary programme and to the vision of its founder, prison chaplain Peter Young, that in April it will expand to house 826 inmates.

"My name is Monroe — I'm a dope fiend," said Monroe Parrot to a recent gathering of some 50 inmates.

Parrot was among the first of 37 inmates to take part in Young's programme when it began experimentally in 1981. He has since graduated to become a counsellor, one of paid staff members.

"I was a shooter," began Parrot, telling his story of heroin addiction to men listening as intently as if the story was their own.

Father Young sat in the back of the room, his priest's collar partially hidden by an old grey sweater.

"In all the other programmes I was in You B-S for two hours telling war stories," said inmate James Hyde, a long-time heroin and cocaine abuser. "But my whole family has turned their backs on me. I got kids, and it hurts."

Young, 59, has been working with alcoholics for 30 years, and for more than a decade with prisoners.

Visitors say the programme works largely because of Young's presence. But the minister credits the inmates who are given major administrative duties in managing the programme, as well as its focus on the Alcohols Anonymous philosophy of abstinence, self-examination, a dependence on a higher power and group support.

"I came up here to rap on alcohol and drugs. It was not a very independent programme, I was it," Young said.

But Young said he was soon approached by James Mitchell, an inmate who told him, "I've been here a long time. It's my seventh bid in the system and I'm tired of this."

Together Young and Mitchell, who died of cancer several months ago, developed a makeshift programme. "I told him I only had one condition. I'm not going to come in and talk to guys who are disrespectful and want to get high," Young said.

What they ultimately worked out was a highly structured six-month programme that has been partially emulated since by other prisons in the state.

Those admitted are generally within two years of eligibility for parole. If they complete their programme, they are sent to a pre-release facility for another six months before returning to society.

To ease that transition, Young has been working to find jobs and low-cost housing for the inmates. Many graduates of the programme have been sent to any of 10 halfway houses set up in the Albany area, some 40 miles (65 km) south of the prison.

Mt McGregor superintendent Joseph Kennedy said while the idea may have been revolutionary 10 years ago, it was sound.

"It was easy because it was cheap. We were able to go practically with what we had," Kennedy said.

State corrections officials estimate the programme costs an added \$25 annually per man but lowers recidivism by about 25 per cent over facilities without such programmes.

Medical news

Gallstones removal made simpler

A NEW method of removing gallstones being pioneered in Scotland means the patient can leave hospital 48 hours after the operation and return to full activity within 10 days. By contrast, conventional surgery can sometimes mean a three month layoff.

Traditionally, gallstones required substantial open abdominal surgery, often involving removal of the gall-bladder itself and a 10-day hospital stay. Even without further delays through infection, patients usually need six to eight weeks convalescence at home before returning to work.

But a new laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure developed by Professor Alfred Cuschieri, head of surgery at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, involves much less drastic surgery and is aided by a laparoscopic optical instrument through a small incision in the abdomen.

Four or five small incisions are made rather than one large one. Carbon dioxide gas is introduced to expand the peritoneal cavity to provide working space for the necessary surgical instruments and the surgeon is aided by a visual display until linked to the laparoscope.

Prof. Cuschieri says the smaller incisions mean post-operative pain is reduced and the wounds heal rapidly, minimising problems of infection and scarring. Most patients can begin eating the day after the operation.

The results of the first 200 operations with the new technique are described as "very promising," and it is now being used not only in Dundee but also Paris, Bordeaux and Nashville. Prof. Cuschieri commented: "Laparoscopic cholecystectomy will undoubtedly prove to be a significant advance, reducing drastically the cost of treatment and the time off work needed for convalescence by the patient."

Parisians devour Peter Brook's *Mahabharata*

An epic tale as told by Europeans

PARIS, (Reuter): The world's longest and oldest poem — an epic 15 times the length of the Bible which evolved in India at least 6,000 years ago — has been brought to the silver screen for the first time.

British theatre director Peter Brook and French writer Jean-Claude Carrere have been working on India's vast and complex national legend, the *Mahabharata*, for 16 years.

It took them 11 years to craft a nine-hour play and they have just finished five years' work on a technicolour film, now playing in Paris and due to open in the United States next month.

Brook, 58, has also written a book version of the tale — originally transcribed in Sanskrit — and the two have produced a three-episode mini-series for television, which has already been sold to 37 countries.

SOUTH MOLTON, England, (Reuter): As soon as Mike Williams saw the mutilated, bloodless carcass of one of his sheep he knew it had been killed by something extraordinary.

The throat had been torn apart, the left ear was missing and it looked like it had been thrown around like a rag doll. Most of the blood had been sucked from the body.

"The face and neck were stripped off," said Williams. "I showed it to my father and neither of us had seen anything killed that way. You've got to see it to believe it."

The killing was so quick the animal didn't struggle and so quiet nearby sheep were disturbed.

This was just one of hundreds of sheep killed in exactly the same way since 1983 on the edge of Exmoor, a rugged, desolate area 200 miles (320 km) West of London which is dotted with isolated villages and solitary farms.

The first rash of killings prompted a panic. Hunters, super-sleuths and even the British marines combed the 260-square-mile (670-square-km) moor in search of what has become known as "the beast of Exmoor."

"We still haven't finished with the tale, it has a sort of energy which is inexhaustible," Carrere told Reuters in an interview in his Paris home, admitting the *Mahabharata* had become a full-time obsession.

"Hollywood offered to make a mega-production in India, complete with elephants and exotic palaces, but Brook felt that would be a betrayal of his work," said producer Michel Propper.

Under Brook's direction, a group of 28 actors and a few extras have created an illusion of thousands in the dimly-lit battle scene which is the climax of the three-hour film.

Brook is known as the master of illusion, what he has created here is neither a film nor a piece of theatre, it is on a bridge between the two, something very unique," said Propper.

Most of the cast, members of which included actors from China, India, Italy

and France, were also in the play, and many were chosen from Brook's theatre company, which he set up after moving to Paris from Britain in the late 1960s.

Propper estimates the film has already attracted up to 200,000 people since it opened in Paris at the end of January. But he says the real challenge was showing a Western adaptation of the legend in India.

The story, which also incorporates the famous Bhagavad-Gita legend, provides India with its gods, including Krishna, Shiva and Vishnu, as well as much of its mythology, children's tales and, these days, almost endless fodder for comic strips and television films.

"I was much more scared for the Indian opening than any other," confessed Propper, who co-ordinated a preview of the film in four Indian cities at the end of last year.

"I have every reason to believe they are pumas," he said.

Although they are not indigenous to Britain, Brierly believes pumas, whose natural habitat stretches from Northwestern Canada to South America, could have been released from private menageries several years ago and have been breeding in the British countryside ever since.

But Doug Richardson, head keeper and cat specialist at the London Zoo, is sceptical. "It's possible but I've yet to see any hard evidence that it is a puma," he said.

He dismissed the numerous sightings saying most people, unless their eyes are trained, cannot identify well-known, big-cat species.

"They can never get it right," he said, adding that he has seen people in a zoo misidentifying big cats that were labelled. Pumas do have a high-pitched cry "but so do domestic cats, and foxes also make bizarre noises," he added.

But for Richardson the lack of blood was the most convincing argument against the puma theory because sucking blood is not one of its behavioural traits.



Bugatti sculptures

THIRTY-NINE magnificent sculptures by Rembrandt Bugatti from the collection of Monsieur Alain Delon, the renowned film actor, are to be sold by Sotheby's in London on April 4, 1990. The thirty-nine works form the finest collection in private hands by this major animalier sculptor and are undoubtedly the most important group ever to appear at auction.

Alain Delon has been a passionate collector of Rembrandt Bugatti's work for the past twenty years. Although he has not stopped buying Bugatti bronzes, he feels that this particular group fully represents Bugatti's work which could not be enhanced by the addition of further works. Its completeness is demonstrated by the subject matter and the size of the bronze ranging from composite pieces measuring over 1.3 metres to a tiny bird only 16cm high. For this reason he has decided to sell this part of his collection.

Rembrandt Bugatti (1884-1916) was the younger son of Carlo Bugatti, the creator of remarkable furniture, and brother of Ettore of motor racing fame. Born in Milan in 1884, he achieved recognition and acclaim at an early age and although his life was short, ending tragically at 30, he made a deep impression on the art world during his brief working life between 1901 and 1916. Rembrandt Bugatti was a great lover of animals and felt a natural affinity with them. His sculptures are immediately recognisable and distinguishable from any other work. Often described as an unassuming genius, Rembrandt was drawn at an early age to the Fauve environment and "gravitated to a world where the spontaneity of the natural beast counted for all. He devoted himself to capturing a world of movement and stance that artistic human values were not allowed to encounter. His work invariably spoke for the animal standing by itself." Like Hokusai, he would spend hours, even days, observing his subject and then work swiftly, accurately and forcefully, destroying anything which did not succeed at the first attempt.

EVENTS



PAC Veterans hold successful Musical Nite

The PAC Veterans recently held their Musical Nite at the Sharq Auditorium hall. The pictures show (left) Veena thrilling the packed-hall audience with her beautiful dancing event. (Top) Pakistan's national costumes display was a prime presentation of the PAC Veteran's programme. Shown from left: Nadia Ghazali (Baluchi), Mishal (Punjabi), Nabilah Osman (Kashmiri), Rubina Sharifuddin (Sindhi) and Zubia Aqil (Pathan).

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a live contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of "Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers". Gala iftar, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral - Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April - 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam - in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April - 7.00 am. Concelebrated Mass of Chrism (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm. Adoration (English - in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) - 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall); 1.00 noon. Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

British Council

The British Council working

hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office

- Saturday to Wednesday -

7.30 to 14.00; Library - Saturday to Wednesday - 9.00 to

12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thurs-

day: 9.00 to 1.20.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Khetan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood butchers and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

Ladies International League LIL'S BIG MEETING: Monday, April 2, 1990 from 7 pm to 10 pm - Sheraton Hotel Ballroom A. This month's programme shall be health, exercise and jazzercise. Audience participation welcomed but not required. Please join us for fun, refreshment, entertainment and socialising. Doors open at 7 pm, refreshments at 7.30 pm and programme starts at 8 pm sharp. Doors shall close at 7.45 pm sharp.

Swedish Ladies Meeting

The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

HOTELS

SAS Hotel

AL GHAZER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip, for reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of mezze - delicious Hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies - prime American beef, Gulf lobsters, hamour or zubedi. Enjoy your delta at the diwania overlooking the sea. For reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turnips and chilli sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialities from our chef's recommendation or take your pick from our delightful menu of sumptuous Chinese favourites.

Book for a nice table in cozy elegance of our Peacock Room. Pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items - juicy burgers, hot French fries, crispy drumsticks, and lots more plus softdrinks and juices.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and design henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150 or Barbara on 5325131.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo - Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazza, etc. Enjoy Subhour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejzis plays in the lobby diwania after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Messiah Beach Hotel

Messiah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialities every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakah Restaurant.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

The Meridian

DURING the holy month of Ramadan

LA BRASSERIE: Meridian invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzeh, majbous, sajha, baal-baki, harissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like hashhouse, maamoul, hel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am. A tantalizing selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Bubble-Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as ige souz, tamer hindy, laban erian, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING: For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghatbah will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

Sports

Daniella Bowling

ALL Dames are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie - Tel: 3715637 or Marianne - Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch - Sun and Wed 10.30 - 11.30 am; Apollo Workout - Sunday 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Tuesday 5.00 - 6 pm; Fast 'n' Fizical (mixed) - Friday 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness 4.00 - 5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts - Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo - Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga - enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tele. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Dinghy Laser Sailing

M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times: Fridays 10.00 am, Tuesday 15.00. All members are requested to attend the pre-race meeting on Friday, 30.3.90 at 0930. New members welcome. Limited number of club boats available. For further details please contact: David Clark (W) 4845171 (H) 2451791, Roger Brown (W) 4736167, (H) 5225139.

India Festival Tournaments

Indian Arts Circle in its press release, announced that an all Indian Open badminton and volleyball tournaments will be conducted in connection with the India Festival.

All Indian teams/individuals are invited to register themselves for early fixtures to avoid disappointment.

Both the tournaments will commence on 9.4.1990 at 7.30 pm. Last date for entry will be 5.4.1990 before 10.00 pm. Fixtures will be displayed at I.A.C. on 7.4.1990 at 8.00 pm. Participation is only against India Festival. Master coupons for each event/individual. For further details please contact: IAC office or India Festival Office Tel: 3904817 (5 pm-10 pm), 2456293 (5.30 pm-11 pm).

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday at 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonie Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Sports

On Column

All entries for the Whal's Column can be sent by telex (2232) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuweikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 Opening, Holy Quran and programme review
- 1.35 Cultural programme: World's Animals
- 2.00 Cartoon serial
- 2.25 Historical serial: Maal Sabreen
- 3.35 Cultural programme: Human Health
- 4.00 Arabic daily serial: Qabdat Bahoul
- 4.30 Educational programme
- 4.45 Arabic daily serial: Raafat Al-Hajjan
- 5.31 Religious programme
- 6.15 Cartoon serial
- 6.45 Religious programme: Baadal I Ifar
- 7.00 Local children's serial

KTV 2

- 8.00 Religious programme: Nourul Islam
- 8.45 Cultural programme: Juhaia
- 9.45 Local programme: Sawalef Minal Madi
- 10.45 Local serial
- 11.30 Local variety programme: 3x3
- 12.15 Arabic serial: Sharia Al-Mawardi
- 1.15 Arabic drama: Ghusn Ban

- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan
- 9.45 Face to Face Local programme featuring exclusive interviews with famous personalities within Kuwait
- 10.30 Final Run: A bank clerk manages to obtain top secret information about the IRA. He informs the police who in turn protect him. However his son does not approve of this behaviour.
- 11.00 Mutual of Omaha: An informative programme about scientists who are searching for strange animals around the world.
- 11.30 Feature film
- 1.00 News in brief
- 1.15 Magazine D'Actualite

BBC world service highlights

Turning points

MICHAEL BENTINE with his zany sense of humour and infectious laugh ranks as one of Britain's best-loved and well-known comedians. In this, the first in a series of four programmes, he talks to Bel Mooney about the turning points in his life. Later this month listeners can hear film producer David Puttnam, Irish poet Seamus Heaney and journalist Charles Glass talking about significant moments in their lives.

Wednesday, April 4 at 12.45 and 22.45

Among the speakers are Sir Crispin Tickell, the UK's ambassador to the United Nations, and Marius Ebohoven of the Netherlands, director-general for Environmental Protection.

Sunday, April 1 at 17.01

Monologues by Stephen Dunstone 'FORGIVENESS' is the title and the theme of the second monologue performed by Tony Haygarth.

Sunday, April 1, at 15.01 and 22.01

Concert Hall

LISTENERS can hear a salute to Broadway in the first of this month's Concert Hall which features the music of Gershwin, Kern, Rodgers, Bernstein and Sondheim.

Sunday, April 1, at 18.15

Recommended frequencies: 17.64 MHz/17.01m;

15.07 MHz/19.91m; 11.76 MHz/25.51m.

The 'green debates'

THE global response is the topic under discussion in the last of the four 'green debates'. The debate is based on the motion: "The best way to preserve the Earth is through a World Environment Agency."

Wednesday, April 4 at 12.45 and 22.45

ASK holds Holy Quran competition

The American School - Primary section, held a Holy Quran recital competition for the 1989/90 season. Principal of the school, Maxine Al Refai and technical supervisors of the Ministry of Education and Islamic Education, teachers in the school, attended the competition. Winners were presented with valuable gifts.

'Kala' honours cultural figures

THE Kerala Art Lovers Association, "Kala", held a commemorative meeting in giving tribute to the late Prof. Thayattu Sankaran, a prominent and progressive Keralite literary and cultural figure during the occasion of his fifth death anniversary last Friday.

The meeting was presided over by V.B. Jamal, the president of "Kala" and it began with a welcome speech made by Sam Purnamood, the literary secretary.

Vakkum Sharma, Renuka Bhaskaran, Pushpa Narayanan and P.M. Sudhakaran made speeches by reviewing the literary and cultural creations of the well known critic and writer Prof. Thayattu.

A recitation of poetry was done by N.V.K. Warrier. Dr. Nanthakumar Moorkath, Var

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Subroto predicts higher US oil imports

Opec lost over \$200b

ABU DHABI, March 30. (Agencies) An oil research official was quoted yesterday as saying that Opec states lost more than \$200 billion in revenue through their price war in the mid-1980s.

Quoted in a United Arab Emirates oil journal, Nicolas Sarkis, head of the Paris-based Arab Centre for Oil Studies, said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) could have avoided the oil price collapse if they had not started undercutting each other.

"The loss was a sort of enforced present from Opec to the consumer countries," he was quoted as saying in the latest issue of petroleum and industry.

In 1986, world oil prices fell to below \$10 from \$28 per barrel.

Sarkis blamed the situation directly on the policies of the then oil ministers of the oil producing nations, in the 13-member Opec group.

Meanwhile, the leader of Opec predicted that the United States, which now imports half its oil, will buy at least two-thirds of its oil abroad by the end of the decade.

Opec General Secretary Subroto said the United States should not be afraid of its growing reliance on imported oil from its biggest supplier, the Opec.

Unless a major new oil field is discovered in Alaska, Subroto said the outlook for the future is that

Opec will supply more oil to the United States, as well as to the rest of the world, to meet growing demands, and make up for non-Opec production declines.

Subroto also called for double-hulled tankers to better ensure safe oil shipments and said industrialized nations and developing countries alike must start paying closer attention to environmental concerns.

The Indonesian leader of the 13-nation oil organisation in the first visit by an Opec chief to America's biggest oil-producing state, spoke to the pro-development civic group Commonwealth North before heading for the oil port of Valdez to see the lessons of the disastrous Exxon Valdez oil spill and tour pipeline facilities.

Subroto, who goes by the single name, was to tour Prudhoe bay, the United States' largest oil field, yesterday during a five-day trip to Alaska.

Subroto said Opec's role as an oil supplier is growing, and that oil prices will rise with demand, but he said that should be no cause for alarm among consumer nations.

He predicted that US total oil reserves will become of marginal importance in about nine years' time, "partly because the Exxon Valdez spill increased opposition to drilling in the Arctic national wildlife refuge, which may hold vast reserves of oil in northern Alaska."

Subroto said, "the United States is

importing about half its oil requirement, and this level could rise to between 65 and 70 per cent by the year 2000."

He said production declines in non-Opec countries such as the United States and the Soviet Union, combined with increasing demand, "means that there will be a gradual transition from non-Opec to Opec dominance of the market."

However, this does not mean that consumers have anything to fear. Indeed, the fact that Opec has the easily-accessible reserves to meet future demand should relieve rather than intensify consumers' fears about energy supply and the impact on the environment.

He said Opec has 84 percent of the known reserves in the non-communist world, 908 billion barrels.

"It should not matter whether the United States, or any other country, has to import a growing quantity of oil from Opec," Subroto said. "That is what we are here for. Opec countries import most of the things they need and pay for their imports with oil revenues, so the petro-dollars are coming back to the consumers, mainly Western countries."

Opec's 25-million barrel production is near capacity and Opec will have to undertake a \$60 billion spending programme to meet future demands, Subroto said.

He said a "rather fragile equilibrium" exists between supply

and demand and, "prices will go up slowly reflecting at least the inflation rate. If you talk about prices in real terms, I think it will be about \$23.24 per barrel in 1995" for cheaper Opec oil.

"Nobody wants to repeat the history of the 80s and see the fluctuation go up to \$40 and go down again to \$19 (per barrel). It's very disruptive for the producers as well as for the consumers," he said.

Subroto said uncertainties that could affect the fragile supply-and-demand balance include the emergence of new economies in Eastern Europe with a bigger appetite for oil, what percentage of oil the Soviet Union — now the world's biggest oil producer — will be able to supply, the impact of US production declines, the speed of industrialisation in southeast Asia, the emergence of newcomers as Third World oil producers, and environmental concerns.

"We in Opec share everybody else's concern about the deteriorating quality of the environment," Subroto said, noting that environmental degradation is worsening in developing countries.

Subroto said refineries, which have suffered "an unprecedented series of mishaps" in the last 18 months, should be modernised and he called for an overhaul of the world tanker fleet to safer double-hulled vessels.

TOKYO, March 30. (Reuters) The fall of more than 1,000 points in the Tokyo Stock Market's key Nikkei Index today is just a bitter taste of more to come, market analysts say.

"I think there is an awful lot of selling to be done, but that will happen in a fairly boring way rather than 2,000 points a day," said Andrew Ballingal, strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan).

The closely watched Nikkei plunged 1,045.71 points today, ending the day 3.37 per cent down at 29,980.45. That combined with losses earlier this week more than wiped out a 4.83 per cent rise on Monday and left the Nikkei down 1.29 per cent for the week.

Worries over a declining yen, rising interest rates and slower corporate profit growth have sliced nearly 23 percent off the index since it finished 1989 at a record 38,915.87.

"Today's plunge betrayed market expectations of 'window dressing' buying by institutions and funds whose portfolios will be evaluated on prices at the end of the day."

"There was supposed to be window dressing today, but everything went in the opposite direction," said Kunio Misaki, senior analyst at Nikko Securities Co. Ltd.

Inflation will jump

Profit boost for Pearson

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters) Pearson Plc, whose interests range from investment banking to the Financial Times newspaper, announced today its 1989 pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent to £250.5 million (\$41.8 million).

The profit increase was better than expected, thanks to strong growth in the group's main business activities, financial analysts said.

Pearson, which owns Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London, announced it was paying £60 million (\$98 million) to buy Alton Towers, a Central England theme park that is one of the country's most popular tourist attractions.

Pearson also said it was planning to raise £1.5 million (\$1.7 million) by selling new shares to finance the Alton Towers purchase and other acquisitions.

The following are highlights from Pearson's 1989 results against 1988 figures:

Pre-tax profit £250.5 million vs 198.8 million

Sales £1,459 million vs 1,194 billion

Earnings per share 67p vs 55.7p

Dividend 21.5p vs 18p

Meanwhile, Britain's inflation, the scourge of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will jump to an eight-year high of nine per cent this summer from 7.5 per cent now, the country's central bank chief said yesterday.

It could even go higher because of increased home loan payments, higher excise duties and price rises in gas and electricity, Bank of England governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton told a parliamentary committee.

"My instinct is that it will peak in the early part of the summer at around nine per cent," Leigh-Pemberton said.

Asked whether he thought it could rise even more, he said: "Yes, maybe higher."

Leigh-Pemberton said base interest rates, currently at 15 per cent, were "satisfactory" but predictions they could fall by three or four per cent by the end of the year were optimistic.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)

March 30, '90

	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	386	385	389
Alem Chem	—	—	—
Alu Nis	—	—	—
Alu Fab	74	72.50	74
Ashok Ley	230	230	233.75
Asia Paint	37	35.50	36
Atlas Cop	57.50	56.25	58.75
Auto Corp	415.83	415.24	415.24
Nat. Index	398.75	398.75	408.75
Bajaj Auto	780	775	792.50
Bar Rayon	—	—	—
Blow Past	192.50	192.50	195
Bon Dye	112.50	110	114
BK Ind	85	80	85
Burn Vel	—	—	—
Cen Enka	3300	3325	3400
Cen Spg	3130	3140	3200
Colgate	221.25	221.25	223.75
Cromi Gr	—	—	—
DCM	17.50	15	16
Deep Fert	32	30.75	31.50
Dunlop	56	55	56
El Hotels	64	62	64
Exports	85	83.50	85
BSE Index	770.30	767.74	767.74
Elakaver	135	132.50	132.50
Essar Spg	34.50	34.50	33.75
Food Spk	121.25	120	125
Forbes	49	48	52
Gar Poly	35	35	33.50
Glindia	100	98	99.50
GNFC	41.25	41	41
Grasim	121	119	120
GE Step	48	48.25	48.50
GSFC	182.50	182.50	178.75
Guji Alik	83.50	82	83.50
Guji Heavy	17	16	15
Hero Honda	19	17	19
Hind Ciba	1270	1240	1250
Hind Lever	118	117	118.50
Hind Cocos	162.50	162.50	165
Hind Motor	24.50	23.75	23.50
Hindulco	270	270	267.50
Spic	58.75	58	57.75
Tatia Oil	123.50	122.50	123.50
Tatia Chem	455	450	445
Tatia Pow	123.50	122.50	123.50
Telco	—	—	—
Thapp Agro	124.50	125	124
Taco	146.25	141.25	143.75
Vam Org.	70	68	70
Volatia	20.25	19.50	18.75
Wimco	56	53	55
Zenith Agro	64	61	62

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION — WINNERS AND LOSERS

by John Garoff and Banita Rotella

Part 8: Montreal

Let's get one thing straight from the start. Montreal is not Paris. It is a distinctly North American city: the city that swings in the summer and goes underground in the winter. If you choose to live in Montreal, and hundreds of thousands have, you will have a taste of the good side of Paris and not what parts of modern day Paris have to offer: pollution, exorbitant housing prices, nightmarish traffic. And people in Montreal are internationally known as far friendlier and more hospitable.

French culture is there. You can see and hear it everywhere. But if you don't speak French then you can enjoy its bilingual world or you can do what many new residents do: take French classes. The provincial government often foots the bill for this. Remember before you balk at this suggestion that the difference between French and English is much smaller than the difference between English and Arabic, Urdu, Hindi or Chinese.

Montreal is second to Toronto as the Canadian economic hub, it is the financial, cultural and transportation capital of the province of Quebec. Montrealers, most of whom are fluently bilingual, live basically in two large sections of the city. The anglophones tend to populate Westmount, which is to the west of the city, while the francophones live in the center and on the other side. But it's not as partisan as it sounds.

Physically, most people wax eloquent about Montreal. The skyline is dotted with gigantic rises and buildings of modern day business, all of which emerge against a background of the Saint Lawrence river. Then of course there is old Montreal (le vieux Montreal) where so much of Montreal's past has been either saved or restored. Here, cobblestone streets wind through an abundance of bistros, restaurants, cafes and artisans' shops. It is the pride of most of the Quebecois.

But quaint heritage is not enough for the settler. Even if you only manage to pay a visit, you'll see its reputation as one of the best run cities in the world with one of the most impressive public transport

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2075 University St. Suite 1712 Montreal, QC H3A 2L1 Canada

UK to be major oil producer

LONDON, March 30. (Opec): Britain will continue to be a major oil producer well into the next century.

Minister of State for Energy, Peter Morrison told delegates at a conference in Scotland.

He maintained that widespread predictions that the UK's North Sea oil production would go into "terminal decline" in the mid-1990s were "too pessimistic."

Subroto said uncertainties that could affect the fragile supply-and-demand balance include the emergence of new economies in Eastern Europe with a bigger appetite for oil, what percentage of oil the Soviet Union — now the world's biggest oil producer — will be able to supply, the impact of US production declines, the speed of industrialisation in southeast Asia, the emergence of newcomers as Third World oil producers, and environmental concerns.

Subroto said he was basing his opinion on the amount of investment planned for the North Sea, coupled with the number of oil discoveries that had been made recently.

Morrison, who was addressing a three-day conference on offshore operations at Aberdeen, disclosed that he would soon announce new initiatives to spur exploration activity in the frontier areas.

Meanwhile, London stockbroker James Capel has forecast in its annual petroleum review that oil production in northwest Europe was expected to peak in 1995 before falling sharply towards the end of the century.

Quoted by the specialist publication "Lloyd's List", the report says that an oil output peak of 4.5 million bpd could be expected in 1995.

Foreign ministers of the two nations were expected to sign the documents later in April during a visit to Kathmandu by Indian Foreign Minister J.

New budget

Qatar boosts spending

DOHA, March 30. (AP): The government yesterday unveiled its budget for fiscal 1990-91, with a 33.4 per cent projected increase in revenue reflecting improving world oil prices.

Revenue in the budget starting April 1 through March 31, 1991, was estimated at 7,785 billion ryals (\$2.1 billion) compared to last year's figure of 5,834 billion ryals (\$1.6 billion).

Paribas raises '89 profit and dividend

PARIS, March 30, (Reuter): Paribas, the blue-chip investment bank recently involved in a bitter bourse takeover battle, reported on Thursday that its 1989 attributable net profit rose 30 per cent to 3.45 billion francs (\$604 million).

The results were in line with the forecasts that Paribas made in November. The company, privatised by the previous right-wing government in early 1987, raised its dividend to 12 francs a share from 10.

Paribas hit the headlines last year when it launched a 26 billion franc takeover bid for Navigation Mixte, an industrial holding company with interests ranging from insurance to food.

But Paribas won only 40 per cent of Mixte and the repercussions of the failed bid are still being felt.

At Thursday's board meeting, the bank was expected in to approve a management reshuffle that would result in chairman Michel Francois-Poncet handing over day-to-day power to Andre Levy-Lang, chairman of Compagnie Bancaire, the commercial bank in which Paribas holds a 40 per cent stake.

Paribas' major shareholders, jockeying for position ahead of the management shake-up, have been actively juggling their shareholdings in the past week.

State-controlled insurance firm Assurances Generales de Paris announced on Tuesday that it had raised its stake in Paribas to nine per cent from five per cent.

Following are Paribas' main figures for 1989, with 1988 comparisons:

Attributable net profit 3.45 billion francs vs 2.65 billion

Earnings per share 61.1 francs vs 49.3

Balance sheet total 807 billion vs 737 billion

Assets per share 790 vs 610

Customer credits 395 billion vs 346 billion

Customer deposits 253 billion vs 223 billion

Investments 54.3 billion vs 35.5 billion

(French francs converted at 5.71 per dollar)

US GNP growth quickens

WASHINGTON, March 30, (AP): The US economy posted a 1.1 per cent gain from October through December, the slimmest quarterly advance in three years, helping slow the increase of goods and services to just 3 per cent in 1989, the government said yesterday.

The Commerce Department's final revision of its fourth-quarter gross national product was up slightly from the 0.9 per cent gain in its estimate last month. The department's initial estimate in January was 0.5 per cent.

If followed increases of 3.7 per cent in the first quarter, 2.5 per cent in the second and 3 per cent in the third. The 3 per cent gain for all of 1989 was the smallest since a 2.7 per cent advance in 1986 and followed increases of 4.4 per cent in 1988 and 3.7 per cent in 1987.

A consensus of economists had indicated in advance of the latest report that fourth-quarter growth would remain at 0.9 per cent.

Many analysts, however, believe that while the pace of economic growth rose further during the current quarter, partly because of weather-related factors, it will not bounce back in 1990 to the levels experienced during much of the 1980s.

In fact, the latest consensus of top economists projects a 1.7 per cent growth forecast for this year. That would be the poorest performance since economic activity declined 2.5 per cent in 1982 during the last recession.

The fourth quarter's 1.1 per cent gain was the lowest since a 0.8 per cent advance in the third quarter of 1986.

An inflation index tied to the GNP rose at an annual rate of 4.5 per cent last year, the Commerce Department said, the same as its estimate last month.

Japanese keen to invest in German companies

This is the second part of this article. The first part appeared on March 23.

Britain's retail sales volume declined in January by 1.3 per cent after rising 1.9 per cent in December, while on a year-on-year basis it rose 2.1 per cent.

Current account balance of payments deficit jumped nearly £1.1 billion to £1.88 billion in January. The surprising deterioration, however, was caused chiefly by one-time transactions that don't carry much economic significance. Trade gap also worsened in January to £1.98 billion from £917 million in December due to the rise in diamond imports, fall in aircraft exports (due to an engineering strike) and a thinner surplus in oil trade. Exports slid to £8.6 billion from £8.7 billion in December, while

the Honda Accord.

If past performance continues, Krugman says, both Japan and Europe will overtake the United States in terms of GNP by the year 2000. Both Japan and Europe would have larger investments overseas and export more than the United States.

Author Robert Krugman says in his study titled "The age of diminished expectations: US economic policy in the 1990s" that the 1970s and 1980s were the worst decades of the century for US productivity and the slide could continue for years without provoking a domestic crisis.

Publication of the book this week coincided with the release of Commerce Department figures that showed the weakest expansion of US gross national product since 1986 — a modest 1.1 per cent in the final three months of the 1980s.

For the full year 1989, the United States also recorded its slowest annual growth in GNP since 1986 — 3.0 per cent — partly because of a slump in US car sales. Last year, for the first time ever, the best-selling car in the United States was Japanese.

But because the expectations of Americans had diminished, both economic policymakers and the public were ready to live with the problems as long as there was "no immediate palpable pain, no double-digit infla-

tion, no severe recession and no conspicuous decline in living standards."

The argument that em-

placemeny is at the root of prolon-

gated stagnation in the United

States echoes the view of

President George Bush's Budget

Director, Richard Darman, who

said recently that the American

government and people were

self-indulgent and suffered from

"now-now-ism."

The symptoms of the disease,

according to Darman, include

"collective short-sightedness,

obsession with the here and now,

and reluctance to adequately

address the future."

But unlike the doomsday

School of US Economists, Krug-

man argues that letting things

slide would not necessarily result

in disaster and that being num-

ber three in the world might not mat-

ter all that much.

The study says that by the year

2000, foreign firms could

account for 25 per cent of US

manufacturing production and

own 45 per cent of American

banks. This is likely to prompt

economic nationalism and, in

turn, restrictions leading to a

trade war.

"This would make sur-

prisingly little difference to our

economic prospects. Trade con-

flict ... is less of an evil than

commonly believed," Krugman

writes. "A tariff war that would

cut world trade in half would do

no more economic damage (in

the United States) than a mild

recession."

At Thursday's board meeting,

the bank was expected in to approve a management reshuffle that would result in chairman Michel Francois-Poncet handing over day-to-day power to Andre Levy-Lang, chairman of Compagnie Bancaire, the commercial bank in which Paribas holds a 40 per cent stake.

Paribas' major shareholders, jockeying for position ahead of the management shake-up, have been actively juggling their shareholdings in the past week.

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Japan, Europe will overtake America in terms of GNP by the year 2000

US likely to be third global economic power: study

Rich-poor gap widens despite minimum-wage hike

WASHINGTON, March 30, (Reuter): The United States, weakened by two decades of stagnation, is likely to fall behind Europe and Japan to become the world's third-ranking economic power by the year 2000, claims a new book by a noted international economist.

Author Robert Krugman says in his study titled "The age of diminished expectations: US economic policy in the 1990s" that the 1970s and 1980s were the worst decades of the century for US productivity and the slide could continue for years without provoking a domestic crisis.

By these measures, America would sink to number three economic power," says Krugman, a professor of economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has served as consultant to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The book lists dismal statistics for the past two decades: the average American's take-home pay has remained unchanged in real terms since 1969, the number of people living in poverty increased substantially and trade deficits became chronic.

Two-thirds of the nation's minimum-wage earners are women. The Labour Department acknowledged last October that a single mother trying to maintain a

family on the minimum wage usually cannot escape poverty.

One out of five American children, working poor in the United States may find it bitterly ironic that their pay raise goes into effect on April Fool's day.

The hourly wage of 3.2 million workers will climb Sunday from \$3.35 to \$3.80, but the boost will reduce the food stamp allotment many of them depend on for survival.

The second half of the first increase in the minimum wage since 1981 — approved by Congress in November — will raise the floor to \$4.25 an hour in April 1991.

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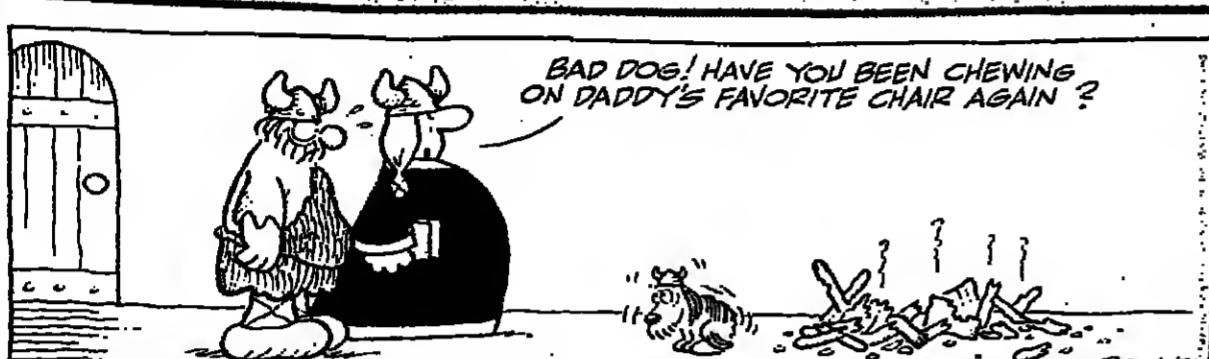
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



MAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



SHEETLE BAILEY

By Mod Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Parker & Johnny Hart



MINTY CAPP

By Johnny Hart

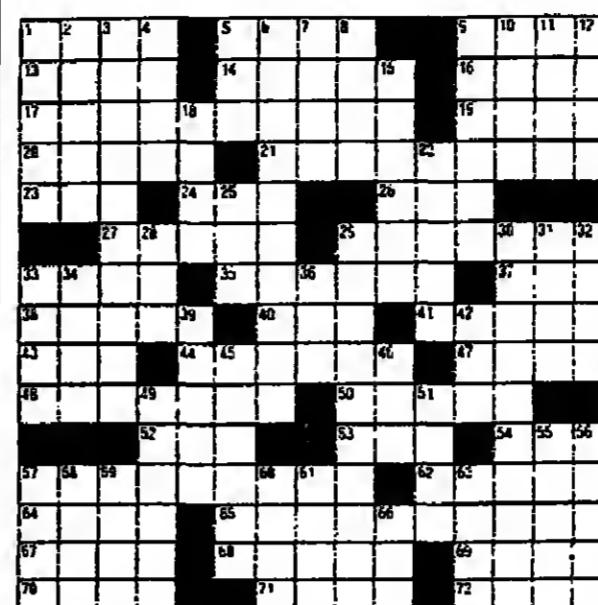


ME MAN

By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Slangy data 68 The south wind 29 Genus of algae
 5 Pacific Coast 69 — day's 30 Bounty's cargo
 9 Hunk of cheese 70 Unusual person 31 British politician
 13 Standard for a 71 Alcen lox Tony Wedgwood
 group 72 Soissons seasons
 14 Slumber 73 DOWN
 disturber 74 Distress Shearer 32 News
 16 Flashy fruit 75 Papaw and persimmon 33 Minstrel
 17 Holiday treats 76 Leave out 34 Lotus
 19 Baltic Sea 77 White House ingredient
 feeder 78 org. 35 Certain vote
 20 Issues 79 Type of cake 36 Rascal
 21 Shrinking 80 Napoleon 42 Contest
 23 Follower of 57 81 So be it 45 Out
 Across 82 Dawdle 46 Before
 24 Irving or Carter 83 Brother 47 committal
 26 — Lit. course 84 of Eris 49 Former British
 27 Seer's deck 85 Type of cake air chief
 29 Rescue site in 86 victory site marshall
 Uganda 87 Glacier's calf 51 Jazz phrase
 33 Fool lead-in 88 Ammonia compound
 35 Claw 89 Type of cake 52 Ceremonies
 37 Boxing VIP 90 Napoleon 53 Hall of a
 38 Guinness and 91 So be it 54 Samoa island
 Waugh 92 Glacier's calf 55 Prass
 40 Angora 93 Ancient 56 Indonesian craft
 41 Incident 94 Autocrat 57 Diner sign
 43 Baseball's 95 — nous 58 Osprey's cousin
 Preacher 96 Swab 59 Japan or Siam
 44 Artist's medium 97 Former energy org.
 47 Actor 50 Ending with

Richardson and others 51

48 Author Madame 52

49 — 1766-1817 53

50 Prepared a 54

51 Pinner's 55

52 measures 56

53 Cuckoo's 57

54 Wide's 58

55 relative 59

56 Musician in 60

57 Motley 61

62 1938 Nobelist in 62

63 Barren 63

64 Pomeo 64

65 Author Vidal 65

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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RICE	TERREHAUTIE	
STRATEFS	SPARRDIW	
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GEESE	BRER	NOON
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CARS	DNCITY	ELIA
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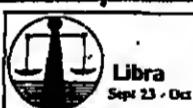
YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will have a good idea and you will be able to put it into practice too. Try to think gloomy thoughts but do not ignore the difficulties either. Make sure you do not do anything that would upset your partner. Be resourceful.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will have to deal with a rather ebullient person and should keep as calm as possible yourself. Do not lose sight of your objectives as you are rather inclined to do. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be cautious.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

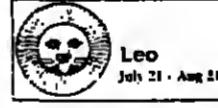
You will feel rather high spirits and must take care not to do anything foolish. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. You will have a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Try to ensure you do not get into a muddle. Be less adamant.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will be able to draw the right conclusions in some respects, but you should not assume they are all right in every respect. Something you have been finding difficult will now become much easier to understand. You should take a little more care of your appearance. Be independent.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will now be able to put something you have learned recently to good use. You will tend to be rather too exuberant and should do a little towards curbing your emotions. However do not bottle them up. Be flexible.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 20

Make sure that you get a good rest, but also ensure you do not become lazy. Try not to allow anything to put you off your track. Take care you do not permit a mere cold to turn into a serious chest infection. Be true to your word.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You should try to overcome yourself, but you should make sure you meet the commitments you have already entered into. You will be able to make a few changes provided you have thought about them carefully first. You should not take everything quite so seriously.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You are rather more liable to say the wrong thing and should deliberate a little more before you open your mouth. This is a good time to make a few changes provided you have thought about them carefully first. You should not take everything quite so seriously.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be able to do something very much to your liking. Make sure though you do not neglect an essential routine that you do not much like. And do your best to avoid getting into debt. Be less obstinate.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

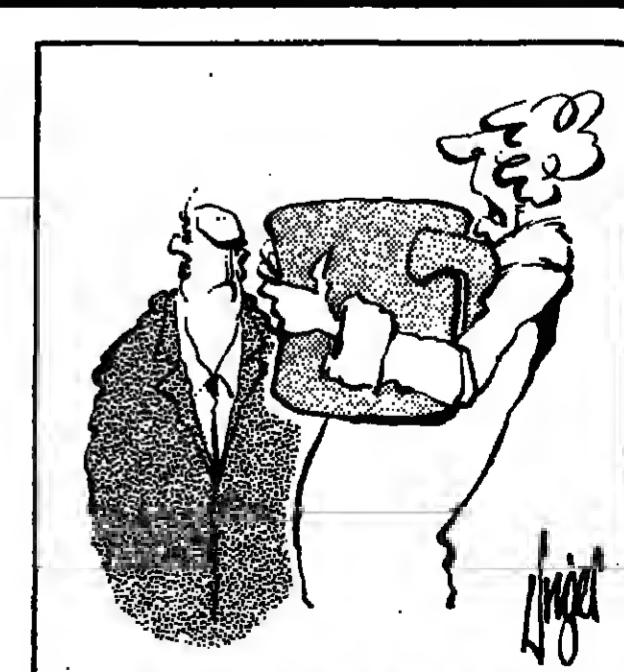
Something you have been trying to do without much apparent effect hitherto will now show results. Once again everything is taking longer, so do not waste any time. Try to spend a little more time with your family. Be sensible.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

You are a little more vulnerable and should try not to expose yourself to a risky or doubtful situation. There is no time for all you would like to do, so choose what you do carefully. Be wise before the event.



"This is the best I can do for 'previous employment'."



"Have a cup of coffee while I'm getting ready."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: West ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? South ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Treat an opening weak two-bid much as if opener had bid one of the suit. You would have overcalled one heart with two diamonds, so bid three diamonds over two hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: West ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? South ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Don't bid the same values twice! Your three-heart cue-bid already showed game-interest and you could hardly have less for that action than what you hold. Pass; if partner couldn't bid game it's unlikely you can score 11 tricks.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: East ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? North ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Fie on you if you thought we were setting a trap. This is simply a matter of whether you rate your hand worth another bid. Since the queen of hearts should be upgraded and your fifth club is a great card, three clubs gets our nod.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? South ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Another question of valuation. Point counters will tell you that you should raise to two no trump with 12 points. However, we feel your jack in partner's suit should be upgraded and your intermediates are good, so we would opt for three no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—What do you bid now?

A.—You have a dead minimum for an overcall at the three-level. As is usual in situations where you have already bid your values, sign off in the cheapest strain available. Bid four diamonds.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—What do you bid now?

A.—You have a dead minimum for an overcall at the three-level. As is usual in situations where you have already bid your values, sign off in the cheapest strain available. Bid four diamonds.

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—What do you bid now?

A.—You will feel rather high spirits and must take care not to do anything foolish. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. You will have a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Try to ensure you do not get into a muddle. Be less adamant.

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—What do you bid now?

A.—You will feel rather high spirits and must take care not to do anything foolish. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. You will have a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Try to ensure you do not get into a muddle. Be less adamant.

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—What do you bid now?

A.—You will feel rather high spirits and must take care not to do anything foolish. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. You will have a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Try to ensure you do not get into a muddle. Be less adamant.

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AK63 ♦ 87 ♦ 1043 ♦ A984

The bidding has proceeded: North ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass ? East ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ? West ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

A.—What do you bid now?

A.—You will feel rather high spirits and must take care not to do anything foolish. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. You will have a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Try to ensure you do not get into a muddle. Be less adamant.

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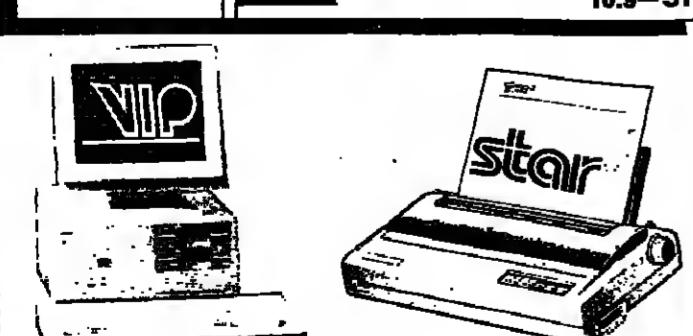
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DATA ENTRY

England, Scotland, Soviet Union win South American giants fall

LONDON, March 30. (Reuter): England and Scotland took heart for the World Cup finals with a pair of encouraging 1-0 victories over South American giants Brazil and Argentina on Wednesday.

Gary Lineker headed a 35th-minute goal which proved enough for England to beat Brazil for only the third time. It was the first defeat inflicted

on Brazil in 15 matches, though the three times world champions felt they were denied an equaliser, claiming defender Stuart Pearce had punched out a shot by substitute Muller in the 65th minute.

Stewart McKinnie struck in the 32nd minute to propel Scotland to their victory in Glasgow and compound the worries of Argentina, who begin the

defence of their crown against Cameroon in Milan on June 8.

With Diego Maradona half a world away in Japan fulfilling an advertising contract, it was the ninth successive match in which Argentina had failed to score since July.

Thirteen of the 24 World Cup finalists were in action, including the Soviet Union who sounded their challenge to Argentina in Group B with a 2-1 win in Kiev over the Netherlands, their conquerors in the 1988 European Championship final.

Ulf Kirsten plundered a hat-trick to give non-qualifiers East Germany a 3-2 win over the United States, who suffered their second World Cup warm-up defeat in eight days following a 2-0 reverse against Hungary in Budapest.

Second-half substitute Gerhard Rodax scored a stunning last-gasp solo goal to see Austria to a 3-2 win over Spain in Malaga after they had trailed 2-0 at half-time.

Bernie Slaven celebrated his debut for Ireland with a goal four minutes from time which sealed a 1-0 win in Dublin over Wales, who failed to reach the World Cup finals.

Yugoslavia were held to a goalless draw by non-qualifiers Poland in Lodz as they looked ahead to their Group D battles with West Germany, Colombia

and the United Arab Emirates.

Daniel Toft netted twice in four minutes to put Romania 2-0 up against Egypt in Cairo in 22 minutes. Ahmed El-Kas pulled one back for Egypt on the half-hour but Gavrila Baling made the final score 3-1 three minutes from time.

Romania face Argentina, Cameroon and the Soviet Union in Group B in Italy, while Egypt take on England, Ireland and the Netherlands in Group F.

The Dutch were undone by an error by Ronald Koeman, who failed to control a simple pass and let in substitute Vladimir Lyutisan on an 80th-minute winner.

Eleven minutes earlier Barcelona sweeper Koeman had scored a penalty to equalise after a 10th-minute strike by Oleg Protasov, also from the penalty spot.

Koeman captained a heavily-depleted Dutch side which featured only three members of the victorious 1988 European championship final line-up, with AC Milan trio Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard among the absentees.

Spain could not have been quicker off the mark, going 1-0 up through Manolo Sanchez in the opening minute, and they appeared well on the way to victory when captain Emilio Butragueno added a second in the 33rd minute.

But Austria came to life with a reshaped line-up in the second half. Alfred Hoernagel scored a minute after the interval and Anton Polster — Spanish club Sevilla's Austrian import — made it 2-2.

Rodax, the Austrian League's most prolific marksman this season, upstaged them all when he ran through the Spanish defence and slipped a shot between the goalkeeper's legs for the winner one minute from the end.

Austria will need that sort of confidence when they face hosts Italy in their World Cup opener in Rome on June 9 in Group A, which also features Czechoslovakia and the United States.

The Americans are collecting European experience but they had a frustrating night in East Berlin despite goals by Peter Vermes and substitute Bruce Murray.

England, world champions on home soil in 1966, extended their unbeaten run to 15 matches with their first defeat at their Wembley headquarters over the Brazilians for 34 years.

But manager Bobby Robson said Brazil, who have defeated both Italy and the Netherlands in recent months, would be the team to beat in the World Cup. The Brazilians share Group C with Scotland, Sweden and Costa Rica.



Brazil's Careca (left) looks to pass the ball in front of England's Terry Butcher. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cantona takes France to victory over Hungary

BUDAPEST, March 30. (Reuter): Eric Cantona scored twice to lead France to a comfortable 3-1 win over Hungary on Wednesday in a friendly between two of soccer's former great powers.

Unlike most other teams in action in Europe on Wednesday, neither France, semifinalists at the last two World Cups, nor Hungary, giants of the 1950s, will have a part to play in this year's World Cup finals in Italy.

France gave team chief Michel Platini encouragement for the future with goals from Cantona in the 29th and 67th minutes and a third from Franck Sauze in the 72nd.

Attila Pinter scored Hungary's only goal in the 39th minute from a penalty.

France took the lead when Cantona ran on to a brilliant lob from Sauze, which ripped open the Hungarian offside trap. He avoided a flying tackle by goalkeeper Istvan Brockhauser and shot in to an empty net.

Hungary equalised 10 minutes later after French keeper Bruno Martini brought down Kalman Kovacs, who now plays for French First Division Auxerre, inside the penalty box. Pinter easily converted the penalty.

Hungary's resistance collapsed half an hour from the end when Kovacs and another exile in France — Gyorgy Bogmar of Toulon — were substituted.

Cantona headed in at the end of a move involving Bernard Pardo, Christian Perez and Luis Fernandez, the rugged midfielder recalled by Paua after nearly two years out of the team.

Five minutes later Sauze volleyed home a perfect pass from Perez from 20 metres.



Canadiens' Eric Desjardins and Nordiques' Jeff Jackson collide along the boards. (Reuter wirephoto)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Egypt manager

CAIRO, March 30. (Reuter): Egypt's national soccer manager Mahmoud El Gohari, who announced his resignation on Wednesday, has agreed to stay on until after this summer's World Cup finals, a sports official said yesterday.

Giorgi sacked

FLORENCE, Italy, March 30. (Reuter): Italian First Division club Fiorentina have sacked manager Bruno Giorgi just a week before the side meets Werder Bremen in West Germany in the semifinals of the UEFA Cup.

UEFA clashes

BREMEN, West Germany, March 30. (Reuter): West Germany's Werder Bremen and Italy's Fiorentina have brought forward both legs of their UEFA Cup soccer semifinals by 24 hours. Werder will play hosts in April on April 17, Werder said yesterday.

Strict regime

MONATE, Italy, March 30. (Reuter): Host team Italy will be put on a strict regime of no sex but lots of pasta to boost their chances of winning a fourth soccer World Cup this summer.

British soccer

LONDON, March 30. (Reuter): Results of British soccer matches played on Wednesday: English Division Two: Oldham 0; Sheffield United 2; English Division Four: Exeter 1; Scunthorpe 0; Hereford 1; Burnley 1.

Cup stadiums

TIRERIA, Italy, March 30. (Reuter): Building work at three of the 12 Italian stadiums due to host the World Cup finals in June is still behind schedule, Italian organisers said on Wednesday.

Milan's pitch

MILAN, Italy, March 30. (Reuter): Milan's San Siro pitch, called a 'Potato Patch' by players, will be returned for the soccer World Cup if it is not in acceptable condition by April 29, officials said on Wednesday.

Substitute 'keeper

MARSEILLE, France, March 30. (Reuter): European Cup semifinalists Marseille said on Wednesday they had hired Laval's Pascal Roussel as their second goalkeeper after Gaetan Huard broke his leg last week.

Ritterhouse ahead

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif., March 30. (Reuter): Lenore Ritterhouse shot a five-under-par 67 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead after the first round of the \$600,000 Dinah Shore Classic, the first major championship of the 1990 US women's golf tour.

Senior debut

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., March 30. (Reuter): The much-anticipated Senior Tour debut of Jack Nicklaus was put on hold yesterday as heavy rain washed out the opening round of the \$800,000 Tradition Golf Tournament.

Horgan leads

WOODLANDS, Texas, March 30. (Reuter): P.H. Horgan shot a six-under-par 66 and held a one-stroke lead over five players when rain forced suspension of play at the \$1 million Woodlands Open Golf tournament yesterday.

Equestrian events

BERNE, March 30. (Reuter): Several countries could withdraw from the equestrian events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics despite assurances from Spain that it has eradicated African horse plague. International Equestrian Federation (FEI) president Princess Anne said yesterday.

McKay suspended

INDIANAPOLIS, March 30. (Reuter): US Olympian and world indoor 400 metres champion Antonio McKay was suspended for three months after testing positive for a banned substance, the Athletics Congress (TAC) announced yesterday.

Liverpool set to oust Villa from top

Referees not fit enough, says Blatter

TIRERIA, Italy, March 30. (Reuter): At least half the 36 referees chosen for the World Cup finals in Italy are not fit enough, International football federation (Fifa) secretary-general Sepp Blatter said on Wednesday.

Blatter told a news conference at the end of a three-day training course for the referees selected for the 52-match tournament: "There are shortcomings in the physical condition of some of the referees and those concerned have been told."

Now they have two months to get themselves fully fit for the start of the World Cup," Blatter said.

"Otherwise we will open a reserve list," added Fifa's Harry Cavan.

The referees said to be in worst shape before the finals start on June 8 were France's Michel Vautrot, Scotland's George Smith, Austria's Helmut Kohl and Zoran Petrovic of Yugoslavia.

Vautrot, who has been widely tipped to officiate at the final in Rome on July 9, and Smith did not take part in fitness tests including strenuous distance running at the Tirirena training ground on Tuesday because of injury problems.

Kohl and Petrovic fared worst in the running tests.

McNeil stuns Sabatini in opener

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 30. (Reuter): American Lori McNeil stunned top seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina with a 6-3 6-4 victory in the first round of the \$225,000 US Women's Hardcourt Championships last night.

Sabatini, the world number three, was upset in the quarterfinals of the International Players' Championships last week but had not dropped an opening round match since October 1988.

"I think the reason I lost is because I didn't concentrate. I also was not serving well," said Sabatini, who lost her serve seven times in the one hour eight minute match.

McNeil, once ranked in the top-10, has fallen on hard times of late and her ranking has plummeted to 54th. But the American played an aggressive attacking game and proved to be a very dangerous first round opponent.

Third seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland needed just 47 minutes to eliminate South African Elina Reinach 6-2 6-0 in another first round match.

Federal judge chides baseball officials

PHILADELPHIA, March 30. (AP): A federal judge yesterday reopened a hearing on the stalled labour dispute involving Major League umpires and chided baseball management and union officials for not being able to settle their differences.

Both sides had agreed Tuesday to end their dispute by arbitration, but on Wednesday the two sides still couldn't agree on an arbitrator.

The umpires were scheduled to work spring training

request for a restraining order, gave both sides 10 minutes this morning to settle matters.

"There is an offer on the table," she said. "The parties have had ample time to resolve this." She told them they were welcome to try to negotiate an end to the dispute over a lunch break.

The judge opened the hearing with testimony from American League president Bobby Brown.

"It's important that they (umpires) get some work in before the beginning of the regular championship season," Brown said. He acknowledged that he hadn't contacted umpires' union head Richie Phillips about the impact of the lockout settlement on umpires.

Texas Rangers' star Nolan Ryan, baseball's all-time strikeout king, hinted at retirement a few months ago but now says he might pitch beyond this season, the Dallas Morning News reported yesterday.

For Ryan's 19th home starts, the Rangers had an average attendance of 28,420.

Brabham's son

LONDON, March 30. (Reuter): David Brabham, youngest of Sir Jack Brabham's three racing drivers, has agreed to join the Formula One team founded by his father.

Brabham, 24, will replace Swiss Gregor Foitek in the Brabham team for the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 13, a team spokesman confirmed yesterday.

Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and Pittsburgh Pirates in action during their spring training Major League baseball games. (Reuter wirephoto)

Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and Pittsburgh Pirates in action during their spring training Major League baseball games. (Reuter wirephoto)

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